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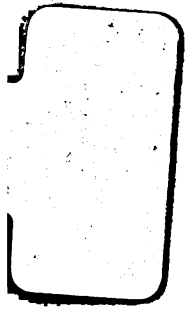

FREDERIC LATIMER:

OR, THE

HISTORY

OF A

YOUNG MAN OF FASHION.

Ætas parentum pejor avis tulit
Nos nequiores, mox daturos
Progeniem vitiosiorem.

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IN THREE VOLUMES.

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YOUNG MAN OF FASHION.

CHAP. XI.

As ſoon as the Baronet and Latimer reached town, they ſtopped at the Hummums, ordered beds, dreſſed, and drove to Mr. Wiſeman's to dinner. Frederic felt ſome difficulty in going, uninvited, to dine at the houſe of a gentleman whom he did not know; but Sir William reminded him, that ſurely he might without ceremony introduce his

moſt intimate friend to the family of his mother.

Mr. Wiſeman lived in Berkeley-ſquare. The Baronet and his friend were ſhewn into an elegant drawing-room, ſuperbly furniſhed in the lateſt taſte of the fashion. Here they were left ſome time alone; for though it was ſix o'clock, none of the party were yet aſſembled. In half an hour, Mr. Wiſeman made his appearance; and being preſented to Latimer, received him with the moſt marked civility. Latimer was ſomewhat ſurpriſed at the perſon, manner, and addreſs of Mr. Wiſeman. From the Baronet's deſcription of his character, and from the elegance of his eſtabliſhment, he expected to have ſeen a reſpectable elderly

elderly perſon, of a mild and gentlemanly aſpect: he was therefore aſtoniſhed at being introduced to a little ſwarthy diminutive figure, whoſe dreſs more ſuited to twenty-five, was in all the extremity of the faſhion, though his age appeared above fifty. There was ſomething particularly mean in his whole perſon; and though he aſſumed the eaſy familiarity of a man of the world, his embarraſſment might ſtill be diſcovered: his accent alſo ſtruck the ear of Latimer as foreign. Theſe united circumſtances would have created ſuſpicions in any mind but his; but he was ſo infatuated by his partiality for Sir William, that he found a reaſon for every apparent contradiction. He remem-

bered that Mr. Wiſeman had long been in the commercial world, and ſuppoſed that though he now lived as a Man of Faſhion, he could not entirely get rid of his former manners, whilſt the family having reſided many years abroad, accounted to him for the idiom with which he ſpoke.

If he was ſurpriſed at the appearance of Mr. Wiſeman, he was no leſs ſo at that of his lady, the mother of the Baronet. He pictured to himſelf a high-bred elegant woman; inſtead of which he beheld a large corpulent figure, covered with a profuſion of colours of different hues, dreſſed in the very *outrè* of the ton: her boſom of no ſmall dimenſions ſcarcely covered, her face highly rouged,

rouged, and her whole appearance ſeeming to prove that though ſhe had little pretenſions to any remaining beauty, ſhe had in her own opinion loſt none of her original claims to admiration.

The dinner bore every mark of ſumptuous magnificence; a regular ſervice of plate contained the choiceſt delicacies of the ſeaſon, and claret, burgundy, and champagne were ſent round in liberal abundance. The company conſiſted of ſeveral faſhionable young men, to whoſe acquaintance Latimer was introduced, and a French emigrant counteſs, the only female preſent beſides the lady of the houſe.

The converſation was rather free, but Latimer ſuppoſed that ſuch

were the uſual manners in circles of Faſhion. Lady Steel was very particular in her attentions to Frederic, whoſe manly figure and elegant deportment did not eſcape her notice: he was flattered by her politeneſs, and attributed her civility to the kind recommendation of his friend. When the ladies withdrew, the bottle circulated with ſtill greater rapidity, and the gentlemen did not return to the drawing room till the evening was far advanced. The young men then propoſed adjourning to a neighbouring houſe of play; but Frederic refuſing to join them, formed with Mr. Wiſeman and the French counteſs lady Steel's party at caſſino. Latimer played with the emigrée; and as he knew very

little of the game, felt very apprehenſive for his partner. She laughed however at his faults with all the good humour of her country; and fortune having been propitious, notwithſtanding his errors, ſhe won with him the firſt rubber! Frederic, who did not know he was playing for gold, was ſurpriſed at receiving five guineas; and having been ſucceſsful, thought it his duty to give the dowager her revenge. They played on; and at the end of the evening Latimer and his partner were the loſers in a trifling ſum, which he little regretted on his own account, but which he feared would be a ſerious inconvenience in the ſuppoſed diſtreſſed ſituation of the counteſs. Her uninterrupted gaiety

ſoon eaſed his mind on this ſcore, and he took his leave at a late hour, much delighted with the reception he had experienced. In this manner paſt ſeveral pleaſant days; and lady Steel taking every opportunity to have the handſome Latimer of her parties at public places, the intimacy encreaſed every hour.

In the midſt of diſſipation, Frederic was often ſerious, and his gravity became the daily joke of lady Steel and the lively counteſs, who declared "que rien que l'amour pou-" voit excuſer ſa triſteſſe." It was, after ſome ſallies of this ſort, which had paſt at dinner that Mr. Wiſeman and Latimer were artfully left alone, the Baronet having followed the ladies, pretending an early engagement

gagement to the play. "I am much "diſtreſſed," ſaid the former with great apparent concern, "at ſee- "ing your ſpirits ſo very low; and "though the ladies are pleaſed to "attribute your depreſſion to ſo ſilly "a reaſon as Love, I cannot help "fearing that you have ſome more "ſerious cauſe of uneaſineſs. I do "not wiſh to be impertinent; but "if I could be of any ſervice in "relieving your anxiety, I ſhould "think myſelf happy." The can- did, ingenuous Frederic, could not withſtand ſo kind an invitation; and after apologizing for troubling him with his affairs, opened his whole ſoul, concealing nothing but his debt to Sir William, which delicacy to him determined him not to mention.

Mr.

Mr. Wiſeman liſtened with attention; and after having enquired the amount of his debts, which Latimer calculated at eight hundred pounds, "I was in hopes," ſaid Mr. Wiſeman, "that the ſum "was not ſo large. I fear it is out "of my power to advance you the "money in queſtion, as unfortu- "nately I have juſt taken a large "ſhare of the loan, which will re- "quire all my ready caſh; and as "to capital, the funds are ſo low at "preſent that it is ruin to ſell out. "But though I cannot perſonally "aſſiſt you, I may perhaps hear of "ſome means of raiſing the ſum "wanted in the city. I will at "any rate make enquiries to-mor- "row among my commercial friends,

"and

" and will acquaint you with the re-
" ſult; but your not being of age,
" the great difficulty of raiſing money
" at preſent on any terms, and the
" very depreciated price of the
" ſtocks, are all circumſtances much
" againſt you. When I conſider
" theſe circumſtances, I almoſt fear
" to undertake the commiſſion, leſt
" I ſhould lead you into an engage-
" ment of which you may hereafter
" repent; Perhaps you had better
" not borrow on ſuch exorbitant
" terms as will probably be aſked.
" Your tradeſmen will wait; or, if
" it is impoſſible to ſatisfy them by
" any other means than immediate
" payment, your kind friend Mr.
" Darewell, or your mother the
" ducheſs of Annan, may ſtand for-
" ward

"ward to aſſiſt you. Surely you "ought firſt to make this attempt "before you apply to any other "quarter."

The impatient Frederic interrupted Mr. Wiſeman. "Speak not thus, "Sir, I entreat you. To my worthy "Guardian I dare not communicate "my ſituation; from my mother, I "have no chance of relief: my cre-"ditors I have promiſed to pay; I "am leaving the Univerſity, and "muſt, at whatever loſs, find the "means. No ſum will be too large "a conſideration for that which will "free me from ſo heavy a burthen."

"If ſuch be your reſolution," anſwered Mr. Wiſeman, "I will to-"morrow make the neceſſary en-"quiries, but I fear I ſhall be a bad

"agent

"agent in the buſineſs, I am ſo "totally unacquainted with tranſ- "actions of this nature. You may "depend however on my beſt exer- "tions."

Latimer expreſſed and felt the ſincereſt gratitude. For ſome days his imagination was kept alive by the hope thus held forth of being able to wipe away the embarraſſments which preyed on his mind, and in the fond expectation of being once again relieved from the painful idea of living on the credit of the induſtrious poor, he forgot what he was likely to pay for this convenience. Mr. Wiſeman took care to keep his mind in this ſtate of ſuſpenſe. Sometimes he had great hopes of ſucceeding, at others

no

no money was to be had, now and then the caſh was to be procured, but on terms which he never could recommend to his friend Latimer. The next day unexpected difficulties had been ſtarted, and he feared at laſt he ſhould fail in his commiſſion. Again he would flatter him with the hope of ſucceſs, and again return home, complaining of the avarice of the monied men, and the bad fortune of Latimer. After Frederic's mind had been thus harraſſed by the conſtant viciſſitudes of hope and fear, he at length came home one day from the city, apparently much fatigued and agitated. Latimer, who was waiting for him by appointment, anxiouſly enquired the reaſon of theſe appearances.

After

After much entreaty Mr. Wiſeman thus explained himſelf: "I did not "wiſh you ſhould know what has "paſſed this morning; but as you in- "ſiſt on my telling you, I muſt de- "pend on your acting in no reſpect "contrary to my advice. I to-day "met with a foreign merchant, now "a broker at the Bank, with whom "I formerly had negotiations; and "knowing him to have money at "command, I applied to him on the "ſubject of your commiſſion, ad- "ding that I ſhould think myſelf "perſonally obliged by his com- "pliance. After much ſolicitation "he liſtened to my requeſt; but "when I came to talk of terms, he "was ſo very extravagant that I had "great difficulty in keeping my "temper."

" temper. We had much altercation on the ſubject, which ended at laſt in my totally declining any further negotiation with ſo unreaſonable a perſon. I confeſs I have been much hurt in finding ſuch principles in a man whom I have always hitherto reſpected, and whoſe character ſtands high in the commercial world. I do not think I ſhall ever again be able to treat him with common civility; and what renders this particularly awkward is, that before this converſation I aſked him to dine with me to-day, and I fear notwithſtanding our diſagreement he will ſtill accept the invitation, as he loves good eating nearly as well as money. I muſt

" entreat

"entreat you to have no particular "converſation with him; for if I "could not treat with him, you may "be ſure he will take ſtill greater "advantage of your inexperience."

Latimer bowed aſſent: but ſince the broker had the money, and was willing to lend it if ſufficiently remunerated, he determined to apply to him in ſecret. The Baronet, to whom he communicated his reſolution, approved his plan; and reminded him that he ought not to regard Mr. Wiſeman's injunctions, whoſe only fault was too ſcrupulous an attention to what he called the laws of honour and equity.

Thus encouraged, Frederic eagerly awaited the arrival of Mr. Diſcount. Wiſeman received him with great

coldneſs, whilſt lady Steel ſhewed evident marks of contempt. The broker, who had every appearance of a foreign religion as well as nation, was dreſſed in black velvet breeches and waiſtcoat, a pompadour coat with large gilt buttons, ſquare-toed ſhoes, gold buckles, and a perriwig highly powdered, which made a curious contraſt with the yellow tinge of his complexion. Impreſſed with the dignity of lady Steel, and at that of the French counteſs, for he had ſeldom been in the company of perſons of rank, he was evidently embarraſſed. When he ventured to ſpeak to either, he roſe mechanically from his chair, bowed to the ground, and repeated *my lady* twenty times in every ſentence.

tence. They were delighted with his confuſion, and kept the whole table in a roar at his expence: they repeatedly aſked him ſome queſtions, which as certainly produced half a dozen bows, and as many "my ladies." They artfully took this opportunity when he was eating of ſome favourite diſh, and by the interruption put his patience to no little trial. As theſe queſtions were of courſe principally directed to his concerns, his anſwers bore every mark of his profeſſion. "How "were the three per cents. to-day, "Mr. Diſcount?" aſked lady Steel. Pulling the napkin from his button-hole, and reſpectfully bending his body, he replied, with his mouth ſtill full, "*Dey vere little down in*

de morning, my lady; but tings did look upwards in de evening, ended at ſixty-three three quarters and one ſixteenth; expected dey vil get up more higher to-morrow, ſo dey tink in de city, but do not pretend to ſay ſo from any autority, my lady; you ladyſhip do know des tings better as me, you move in de higher circles." Again he bowed, and again the company burſt into a roar. After repeated queſtions of this ſort, which he always anſwered with the ſame humility, the ſame foreign accent, and the ſame technical cant, the ladies at length retired, and gave Mr. Diſcount a ſhort releaſe. He was not much better treated by the young men of the party, excepting Latimer, who was little inclined to laugh

laugh at him from whom alone he expected relief in his diſtreſſes. As he let out more than once that no man was better known in Change Alley than Abraham Diſcount, Frederic determined to ſay nothing in the preſence of Mr. Wiſeman, but to call on him the next day.

Mr. Diſcount pretended much ſurpriſe at Frederic's viſit; and after hearing his ſtatement, declared his total inability to aſſiſt him. Frederic entreated with warmth. Diſcount calmly declared the thing impoſſible. At length, after much altercation, he promiſed he would ſee "*vat could be done*," and deſired him to call that day ſe'nnight. At the appointed time the anxious Frederic repeated his viſit. Mr. Diſ-

count was very ſorry all his own caſh was ſo employed that he could not call it in, and "*he dat had de monies*," to whom he meant to apply, was not yet come to town. Another week of trembling expectation for Frederic. At length Mr. Abraham Diſcount introduced his friend Mr. Iſraeli, who, after the uſual objections of minority, ſcarcity of money, depreſſion of the ſtocks, hazard, penalties of uſury, &c. &c. offered to lend one thouſand pounds on the following *reaſonable* terms:—two hundred to be immediately returned as a premium, a bond given for fifteen hundred pounds, payable on Frederic's coming of age, and an engagement to pay a furtlier ſum of one thouſand pounds,

in

in caſe the ducheſs of Annan ſhould bequeath him, at his death, a legacy equal to that amount.

Exorbitant as were theſe terms, Latimer felt himſelf obliged to ſubmit. He had no other means of leaving the Univerſity with credit, or ſatisfying his own peace of mind; and for reputation and tranquillity can too great a price be given? he ſigned the bond, and the engagements mentioned before, and received the eight hundred pounds. The Baronet had been his confident and adviſer through the whole buſineſs; but Mr. Wiſeman pretended to know nothing of the tranſaction.

Latimer, delighted at having it in his power to diſcharge all his little embarraſſments, was preparing to ſet

"ſending the money in the courſe
"of the day; and with ſincere
"regard,

"I remain,

"Yours, very truly,

"WILLIAM STEEL."

"To Frederic Latimer, Eſq."

The aſtoniſhed Latimer for ſome minutes ſuppoſed this letter a forgery, invented by ſome deſigning perſon to ſeparate him from his friend; and he was flying to the Baronet to detect the fraud, and puniſh the writer, when he read it once again. The hand was too particular to be imitated, and nobody but Sir William knew the circumſtances to which it alluded. His reaſon at length convinced him againſt his will, that it came from the Baronet.

Frederic was now a prey to every pang which can haraſs the human heart. Deceived by the friend whom he loved, truſted, eſteemed, all human nature ſeemed to be blackened by the diſcovery; and the candid, generous Latimer for one moment denied the exiſtence of virtue, honeſty, and truth. He ſaw clearly that a deliberate plot had been laid to undo him. Sir William had ſought his acquaintance, pillaged him at play, and had then perſuaded him to raiſe money on uſurious intereſt, under the pretence of liquidating his juſt debts; but, in fact, for the purpoſe of getting paid himſelf. When Latimer's ſpirits were ſufficiently compoſed to allow him the uſe of reaſon, he deliberated

on

on what was left to be done in this agonizing dilemma. To remain in debt to the wretch who had deceived him, was an idea too humiliating to be endured, nor could he require the ſatisfaction he was determined to aſk, whilſt the Baronet was ſtill his creditor. The eight hundred pounds, which he had raiſed with ſo much difficulty, and on ſuch diſadvantageous terms, were due, and promiſed to his tradeſmen at Oxford; for he had already written to deſire their accounts might be ſent in, as he intended immediately to diſcharge them. To break his word, to let thoſe who had placed confidence in his honour be diſappointed, were ſenſations new, diſgraceful, heart-rending. Yet what could be done?

done? He had no other means left but to appropriate this ſum towards the payment of the Baronet. Two hundred pounds remained to be raiſed; for Frederic diſdained to make any compromiſe, or to accept the *equitable* bargain ſuggeſted by Sir William. He recollected that he had juſt received a credit on Mr. Darewell's banker for one hundred and fifty pounds, his half-yearly allowance. Though he ſhould be left without a ſhilling, he determined that this ſum ſhould alſo be ſo appropriated. Fifty pounds more were ſtill wanting to complete the thouſand. It has been mentioned before that he had a favourite horſe; a beautiful creature given to him by Mr. Darewell. He had been bred

by

by his beloved guardian, had carried his adored Charlotte, and had been his faithful companion, his principal ſource of pleaſure at the Univerſity: him alſo he reſolved to part with, perhaps the moſt painful ſacrifice of all. He was ſent to Tatterſal's, and eaſily procured him the fifty pounds, being remarkably handſome, and worth at leaſt twice the money.

Having by ſuch mortifying means completed the full ſum of one thouſand pounds, he enjoyed a moment of dignified triumph, in remembering that he was now free from any obligation to the villain who had deceived him. He then wrote the following letter:

"Sir,

"Sir,

"To accuſe you of breach of ho-
"nour, violation of ſacred promiſes,
"and of every principle which be-
"comes a man, would be to ſup-
"poſe you had feelings left on
"which language could operate. I
"will not pay you this compliment,
"but ſhall content myſelf with tel-
"ling you that at laſt I know you.

"I diſdain to enter into any
"terms with Sir William Steel. I
"encloſe bank notes for one thou-
"ſand pounds, and demand a re-
"ceipt.

"Having ſettled my pecuniary
"account with you, another re-
"mains of a more ſerious nature.
"It is needleſs for me to remind
"you of the injuries you have done

me;

"me; they are such that no ade-
"quate satisfaction can be given;
"yet I am willing to treat you, as
"if you still deserved the character
"of a gentleman.

"Unless therefore you are as de-
"ficient in courage as in principle,
"you will meet me at five o'clock
"to-morrow morning, properly
"attended, in the ring in Hyde-
"Park.

"Your former friend,

"the injured

"FREDERIC LATIMER."

"To Sir William Steel, Bart."

CHAP. XII.

WHEN Frederic had written the letter juſt mentioned, and encloſed the thouſand pounds, he recollected that communications of this ſort were always made by a friend. A new difficulty now occurred. There was no perſon in London with whom he was on terms of ſufficient intimacy to aſk him to be his ſecond, and in his preſent feelings delay could not be endured. He at length remembered that a young man, who was his deareſt companion at Weſtminſter, and who had removed to Cambridge when he was entered at Oxford, uſually ſpent

his vacations with his family in London: he flew to his father's houſe, and enquired for him. Edward Deering was fortunately juſt arrived, and received Latimer with all the ardour of early and ſincere affection. Frederic, though he entertained the higheſt regard for him, found it difficult, in his preſent agitation, to return his kindneſs with the warmth it deſerved. Deering perceived his evident confuſion, and anxiouſly enquired the cauſe. The half-frantic Latimer, whoſe indignation was rekindled by repeating the ſtory, could ſcarcely command himſelf whilſt he deſcribed the villany to which he had been a prey. Edward Deering, who reſembled Latimer in openneſs and generoſity

of

of character, but who had more prudence, and acted leſs from firſt impreſſions, readily joined him in execrations againſt thoſe by whom he had been deceived; but though he fully ſhared and reſented the injuries of his friend, he expreſſed no ſurpriſe. "Did you ever hear ſo "black a tale?" exclaimed the irritated Latimer; "was human na- "ture ever ſo contaminated? Yet "imprudent, mad as I was, to ha- "zard ſuch ſums at play, was it "poſſible for me to fathom ſo deep, "ſo artful, ſo heinous a character as "that of Sir William? Who would "not have been deceived, as well "as I? His birth, his rank, his "connections, were ſecurities which "none would have doubted. His

" father-in law alſo, whom I believe " at this moment a truly honour- " able man, and who warned me " againſt the very ſnare into which I " was led by fatal precipitation, the " worthy Mr. Wiſeman—."

" Good God!" cried Deering, interrupting him, " is it poſſible " that you did not know that no- " torious villain Jew Solomon, the " uſurer?"

" What do you mean?" ſaid Frederic, " I ſpeak of Mr. Wiſe- " man, of Berkley-Square, a gen- " tleman of character and fortune, " whoſe elegant hoſpitality may vie " with that of the firſt duke in the " kingdom."

" True alſo," calmly continued Deering, " yet notwithſtanding this

" elegant

"elegant hoſpitality, notwithſtand-
"ing this fine houſe in Berkley-
"Square, Mr. Wiſeman and Jew
"Solomon are one and the ſame
"perſon! the former name is only
"a convenient tranſlation of the
"latter, which conceals the de-
"grading memorial of his original
"ſituation. I know his hiſtory per-
"fectly. He commenced his ca-
"reer in life by ſelling ſlippers, and
"buying broken glaſs about the
"ſtreets: he finiſhed his education
"by becoming clerk to a low at-
"torney of his own perſuaſion, who
"promoted him to that *diſtinguiſh-*
"*ed* place for his aptitude in ſwear-
"ing whatever his maſter choſe to
"dictate, and for the happy genius
"he diſplayed in aſſiſting him in

" the very *reſpectable* branches which
" he purſued in the profeſſion: he
" was a perfect cameleon, and could
" in one day aſſume many dif-
" ferent forms. If a bail was want-
" ing in the morning, Solomon,
" with the aſſiſtance of a ſmart wig,
" gold-headed cane, and long great-
" coat, became in one minute a re-
" ſpectable tradeſman from the Mi-
" nories. If a witneſs was next re-
" quired to ſave the *valuable* life of
" one of his employer's clients at
" the Old Bailey, he was inſtantly a
" Yorkſhire farmer, and would de-
" poſe with great exactneſs to the
" preſence of the priſoner in that
" county at the time of the rob-
" bery committed; and if a ſigna-
" ture or atteſtation were omitted
" by

" by a teſtator, every form was
" eaſily ſupplied by his ſkilful pen.
" His talents in theſe *honourable*
" tranſactions became rather too
" celebrated, and Mr. Solomon
" found it prudent to try the air of
" another climate: he retired to
" Portugal, turned gentleman, and
" kept a houſe for play. Having
" realized ſome money, he launch-
" ed out into certain uſurious ſpe-
" culations, which happened to draw
" the notice of the inquiſition, and
" Mr. Solomon was glad to pur-
" chaſe his liberty on condition of
" leaving the country immediately.
" He went thence to Italy, aſſumed
" the character of a Portugueſe, no-
" bleman, wore a ſtar, and called
" himſelf *Le Marquis del Solono*. In

" this character he gained admit-
" tance into the beſt ſocieties, and
" had an happy opportunity of exer-
" ciſing his talents. After pillag-
" ing many perſons of fortune at
" play, and particularly ſeveral
" young Engliſhmen on their tra-
" vels, he became acquainted at
" Venice with lady Steel, then a
" widow, not of the beſt reputation.
" As he knew from undoubted au-
" thority that ſhe had a jointure of
" ſix hundred pounds a year, ſhe
" became an object worthy his at-
" tention. Report ſays, that her
" ladyſhip did not keep the impa-
" tient lover in ſuſpenſe, and that
" long ere the holy ceremonies of
" wedlock had made them " One
" and Indiviſible," they inhabited
" the

" the ſame apartment. Be that as
" it may, he was too much a man
" of honour to break his word, as
" he was intereſted in keeping it;
" and he was united to her, firſt by
" the forms of the Romiſh church,
" then in the Engliſh chapel, and
" ſometime afterwards in a Syna-
" gogue of his own perſuaſion.
" Lady Steel, who had been prin-
" cipally allured to this marriage by
" the ſound of his title, and the
" ſplendor of his ſtar, had the
" mortification ſoon to diſcover
" that her worthy lord was the ſon
" of an old clothes-man in Duke's
" Place: he had orginally eſcaped
" detection by a conſtant change of
" place, but his marriage, and the
" fortune of his wife, tempted him to

" remain

" remain at Venice ſome months.
" The Portugueſe ambaſſador made
" enquiries, learned his true cha-
" racter, and took the liberty one
" evening of turning him publicly out
" of the theatre, acquainting him, at
" the ſame time, that if he did not
" immediately leave the territories
" of the Republic, he ſhould ob-
" tain an order for his arreſt. The
" Jew obeyed, and decamped the
" next morning with his diſconſo-
" late Dowager and her family, of
" whom your worthy friend the
" Baronet formed a part. As ſhe
" was his wife, there was no remedy
" left but to keep up appearances
" as well as poſſible. By her ad-
" vice Mr. Solomon returned to
" London, where his youthful ex-
" ploits

" ploits were now forgotten, and un-
" der the angliſed name of *Wiſe-*
" *man*, commenced man of faſhion,
" though, not being able to get rid
" of his Jewiſh accent and foreign
" complexion, he condeſcended to
" acknowledge he had been for
" many years a merchant abroad.
" A ſplendid houſe and flaming
" equipage were immediately pre-
" pared. Buoyed up by theſe ap-
" pearances, and the rank of lady
" Steel, he has contrived to live
" ſome years in ſplendor and af-
" fluence on the credulity of inex-
" perienced youth. ' The elegant
" hoſpitality ' you ſpoke of, is the
" attraction by which he firſt draws
" to his table every young man
" whoſe expectations render him an

" object

" object of his prey, and his exqui-
" ſite art conſiſts in letting nothing
" appear under his roof which can
" excite ſuſpicion, or ſubject him to
" puniſhment. His champagne is
" uſed as an incentive to play, but
" gaming is not ſuffered at his houſe.
" He always takes care to have
" perſons in the company who pro-
" poſe adjourning to ſome faſhion-
" able Pharo table, with which he
" is connected, but he never him-
" ſelf accompanies them, and he
" often even pretends to diſſuade
" them from going. Though he
" does not appear, he gets the greater
" part of thoſe ſums of which they
" are pillaged, and a ſtill greater pro-
" fit accrues to him from the loans
" which their neceſſities oblige them

" to

" to negotiate. He is always the
" confident of his young friends,
" though he as conſtantly declines
" having any concern in their money
" tranſactions, and by the aſſiſtance
" of Mr. Diſcount and Mr. Iſraeli,
" who are merely his agents, pur-
" poſely thrown in their way, under
" different pretences, he gets a tre-
" ble advantage from their ruin. By
" this happy artifice, he has hitherto
" eſcaped the puniſhment of the
" law, though his character has been
" more than once impeached. As
" to the Baronet, his father's eſtates
" being deeply mortgaged, his in-
" come, excluſively of his mother's
" jointure, was originally very ſmall,
" and even that he rendered ſtill
" leſs by his early imprudencies. I
" underſtand

"understand he has lately become "a kind of apprentice to his worthy "father-in-law, and by your ac- "count appears already a very able "proficient. You will be surprised "at my knowing these facts so "exactly, but you may depend on "my accuracy. I have lately had "a melancholy reason to ascertain "them. A near relation of mine "cut his throat only a twelvemonth "since, in consequence of being "ruined by the arts of this hoary "villain."

This account opened to Latimer the whole scene of deception which had been practised. He perceived that he was the dupe of a regular plot, and that the only consolation he should have for his losses was the

ridicule

ridicule of the whole town. That thought increaſed his indignation againſt the Baronet. He communicated his intention of ſending the challenge he had written, and entreated his friend to convey it. Deering uſed every argument to diſſuade him from his purpoſe, but the injury was too deeply rooted in his heart for reaſon to have any weight. The unworthineſs of Sir William, the contempt to which he would be expoſed by the ſimple recital of the ſtory, and the little ſatisfaction really derived from the faſhionable appeal of duels, were arguments all uſed in vain. Frederic could not be moved. Deering finding his friend reſolved, did not refuſe to obey his inſtruc-

tions;

tions; and with much anxiety prepared to convey the letter.

Sir William was not a little ſurpriſed and embarraſſed, at receiving a viſit from Deering, of whoſe near relationſhip to the unfortunate perſon deceaſed, before mentioned, he was fully aware. His aſtoniſhment increaſed when he found he came from Latimer. Having peruſed the letter, his tottering hands let fall the bank notes it contained, and with heſitating accents, "Mr. Deering," ſaid he, "I am—I feel—much "hurt—hurt—diſtreſſed at my—"my friend's—I mean Mr. Lati-"mer's miſ—miſtake. I certainly "did not—I ſay—I could not mean "any offence, not I, I am ſure."

"What

"What you meant, Sir William," ſaid Mr. Deering, interrupting his broken ſentences with a determined tone, "your own heart can only ſay. "My buſineſs is ſimply to deliver "theſe notes, to receive a pecuniary "diſcharge, and to demand an an-"ſwer to the more delicate part of "the letter. Here, Sir, take up "theſe notes which you have drop-"ped. Count them. They amount "exactly to a thouſand pounds. "Deliver up Mr. Latimer's bond, "write a receipt, and acquaint me "what I ſhall ſay about the propoſed "meeting in Hyde Park."

The trembling Baronet entreated Mr. Deering to write whatever he choſe, for really he was ſo much hurt, ſo extremely diſtreſſed at Mr.

Latimer's ſuſpicion, that he could not hold a pen.

Deering wrote a diſcharge in the uſual form, which with difficulty he ſubſcribed. He then ſaid, "I "ſuppoſe, Sir, you will ſend an an-"ſwer to Mr. Latimer by your "friend, about the meeting. I ſhall "therefore now wiſh you good morn-"ing." Deering was retiring. Sir William ran after him, and in the humbleſt terms, entreated his interference in accommodating the buſineſs. "I know but one means," cried the former. "Oh, what, what "will, what can ſatisfy Mr. Lati-"mer?" replied the latter, "there "is nothing I will not do."

"Confeſs yourſelf a villain," continued Mr. Deering.

"I confeſs,

"I confeſs, I own myſelf a villain!
"impoſſible!—conſider my charac-
"ter, my honour."

"*Your character! your honour!*" ſaid Deering, ſignificantly, "how im-
"maculate! come Sir, no ſhuffling;
"will you, or will you not, ſign the
"words I have mentioned?" Deering then wrote;

"I confeſs I have moſt ſhame-
"fully abuſed the confidence of
"Mr. Latimer; that I have vio-
"lated every principle of a gentle-
"man and a man of honour, and
"I humbly implore his pardon."

"Here, Sir," continued Deering, "will you ſign this paper?" The Baronet heſitated: the former again repeated the queſtion, and took his hat. At length Sir William wrote

his name, entreating Edward to aſſure Latimer of his unceaſing regard.

Deering ſnatched the paper from his trembling hand, turned his back, and left the room without adding a ſingle word.

Deering, delighted at having executed his commiſſion with ſo much ſucceſs, having humiliated and puniſhed the Baronet, and yet not expoſed his friend, returned, in very different ſpirits from thoſe in which he ſet out, to Frederic's lodgings. Latimer, agitated as he was, could ſcarcely refrain from laughing at the ridiculous picture which Deering drew of Sir William's apprehenſions; whilſt the contempt it excited made him ſtill more aſhamed of

of having been the dupe of ſuch a character. Deering, who knew the ſtate of Frederic's mind, would not leave him alone, and perſuaded him to paſs ſome days with him in the ſociety of his family, who were plain, worthy, unaffected, people. Latimer was by degrees recovering ſome degree of compoſure, when he was ſurpriſed at reading in a daily news-paper the following paragraph: "A certain young gentleman, nearly "related to a noble Earl, and by "the marriage of his mother to a "Scotiſh Duke, lately loſt a conſi-"derable ſum to a daſhing Baronet "not a hundred miles from Berkley "Square. The former heſitated "about diſcharging this debt of "honour; but a ſpirited meſſage

" from the latter ſoon taught him the
" neceſſity of purchaſing the ſafety
" of his perſon by the payment of
" the money."

The alluſion to Latimer was too evident to be miſtaken, and the falſehood it aſſerted could only come from the Baronet. He flew to the office of the paper, and having threatened a proſecution, got certain evidence that the original came from Sir William Steel. Having thus ſatisfied himſelf as to the fact, he was returning to his lodgings, when in Pall-Mall he met the Baronet. Irritated to the higheſt pitch of indignation, he could not contain himſelf. He flew up to him, and ſeizing him by the collar, exclaimed, " Scoundrel, attend me this moment

"to Hyde Park, or I will cane you "from one end of the ſtreet to the "other." The terrified Baronet heſitated; attempted an apology; requeſted an explanation. "I ſee "it is in vain to treat you as a "gentleman," cried Frederic, and inſtantly performed his threat, to the great entertainment of the crowds which now collected. Some gentlemen tried to interfere, but Latimer aſſured them it was in vain. "That villain, ſaid he, firſt robbed "me at play, inſulted me, then re-"fuſed to fight me, confeſſed him-"ſelf a raſcal, and after all has dared "to libel me."

Having ſufficiently diſgraced the Baronet by repeated ſtrokes of his cane, he calmly put his card into

his hand, ſaying, "Sir, there is my "addreſs; if you wiſh for any fur- "ther ſatisfaction I ſhall not refuſe "to give it you." Sir William, who during the chaſtiſement he received, talked of revenge and ſatisfaction, had no intention of ſeeking either the one or the other; and jumping into a coach drove home, rubbed his back with opodeldoc, changed his dreſs, which had been not a little diſcompoſed, and flattered himſelf the whole would be forgotten. He was ſurpriſed, however, when he made his appearance in the evening at the club of which he was a member, that no man ſpoke to him; and it was ſoon intimated, that, until he took ſome proper means of wiping away the diſgrace

diſgrace he had that day experienced, his preſence would be diſpenſed with. Coward as he was, and indifferent as he felt as to perſonal honour in the buſineſs, he eaſily perceived that unleſs he fought Latimer, he muſt baniſh himſelf from thoſe tables on which his very exiſtence depended. After much heſitation he perſuaded himſelf to write a challenge; and having with difficulty procured a ſecond, had it conveyed to Latimer. Frederic expected no leſs, and had already made every neceſſary arrangement for the event, by writing to Mr. Darewell, and by executing a will, by which he ſecured the payment of his debts at Oxford.

The next morning, attended by Edward

Edward Deering, Latimer made his appearance at the appointed hour in Hyde Park. The Baronet, who prepared himſelf for this effort of courage by drinking ſeveral bumpers of brandy, was far from ſober. The diſtances being meaſured, Latimer deſired, that as Sir William had received the blow, he ſhould fire firſt. The Baronet, with a trembling hand, drew the trigger of his piſtol, and by a chance-ſhot, for he was too much agitated to take aim, hit Frederic on the ſide. Latimer felt he was wounded, reeled, and had nearly fallen; but recovering himſelf, he took hold of Deering's arm, and preſenting his piſtol, ſaid, "Sir, "keep your place, I am ſtill well "enough to go on."

When

When Sir William perceived he had ſtruck his antagoniſt, he flattered himſelf he was ſafe, and was going away in triumph. Hearing now Latimer's reſolution, and ſeeing his piſtol preſented at his breaſt, his artificial ſpirits were no longer able to ſupport him; and falling on his knees, he implored for mercy. From this diſgraceful poſture his ſecond in vain attempted to rouſe him; and Latimer, darting at him a look of contempt, fired his piſtol in the air.

Frederic now fainted from loſs of blood. His friend perceived he was ſeriouſly wounded, and with the aſſiſtance of the Baronet's ſecond, who, aſhamed of being concerned in ſo diſgraceful a tranſaction, had driven

Sir

able change: the fourth brought a relapſe; his pulſe beat 160, his ſenſes were perfectly gone, and his diſſolution was expected every moment. This was his ſituation when Mr. Darewell arrived. That worthy man, who had borne ſo many heavy perſonal loſſes with philoſophical reſignation, could not ſee unmoved his beloved pupil, his adopted ſon, in this ſtate of peril and approaching death. The guſhing tears flowed down his venerable face, and for ſome moments he was overpowered by the agony of grief. When at length he recovered the uſe of his reaſon, he anxiouſly enquired whether Dr. —— had been employed? His queſtion being anſwered in the negative, his hopes revived.

revived. He jumped into the chaiſe which brought him, drove to his houſe, and returned with the learned man.

Dr. ——, with that inſight into the diſorders of his patients, which he ſo eminently poſſeſſed, ſaw at once that the mind was more diſeaſed than the body. He ſpoke to Edward Deering in private, and finding his conjectures confirmed, he immediately ordered him ſo ſtrong a doſe of laudanum that he became ſenſeleſs, and ſlept for fourteen hours. When he awoke, the refreſhment of ſleep had calmed both his thoughts and his fever; and though he ſtill talked wildly, he was evidently better.

Dr. —— declared, at his next viſit,

viſit, that he ſhould have little fear of the patient's life, if he were kept quiet; but that any agitation would prove fatal. In conſequence of this opinion, Darewell for ſome days denied himſelf the conſolation of ſeeing Latimer, leſt the interview ſhould be too much for his ſpirits, and he contented himſelf with hearing from Deering, whoſe attentions were unremitting, of his gradual recovery. As Frederic's reaſon returned, his firſt thoughts were of Mr. Darewell, and he anxiouſly enquired of his friend, if he had heard of the duel. Edward only informed him that he had written to his guardian, and his anſwers expreſſed the utmoſt ſolicitude for his recovery. "Does he then ſtill feel

"intereſted

"interested in my fate?" cried Latimer. "What will he say when "he hears the reason of the meeting?"

Deering took care not to let him long dwell on such subjects; and having prepared his mind for the event, by hinting at different times that Mr. Darewell would probably come to town, he at last ventured to inform him that he was actually arrived. Notwithstanding the kind care and preparation of his friend, Latimer was much affected at the news, and assuming a frantic look, which made Deering apprehend a relapse, he wildly exclaimed, "Is "he come to curse—to upbraid me. "Oh! hide me from his sight—in-

" dead. I am too weak to bear his " diſpleaſure."

" Be compoſed, I entreat you," ſaid Deering, " Mr. Darewell comes " to comfort, not to pain you; I " have diſcloſed all the circum- " ſtances of your unfortunate ac- " quaintance with Sir William Steel; " he pities your misfortunes, and is " determined to afford you every re- " lief in his power."

" Do I dream," anſwered Frederic, " are my ſenſes fled again? " What do I hear? is it poſſible " that Mr. Darewell can pardon my " neglect of his advice, my impru- " dence, my folly, my extrava- " gance?" " Talk not in this man- " ner," ſaid Deering, " or I muſt leave " the

"the room—do not look back—all "is forgiven, and Mr. Darewell is "ready to receive you with the "ſame warmth, the ſame affection "he has ever felt for you."

"Oh! where is the venerable "man?" continued Latimer. "Let "me fall on my knees before him, "confeſs all my errors, and receive "from his much-loved, his well-"known voice, that forgiveneſs "which can alone reconcile me to "myſelf. Yet I fear I ſhall not be "able to endure his goodneſs. I "tremble, whilſt I anxiouſly expect "the happineſs of once more be-"holding him."—Deering ſaw that his friend was too much agitated to ſee Mr. Darewell that day; pretending, therefore, that he was gone out

of town on buſineſs, he poſtponed the interview till the next.

When Latimer had reflected on the intelligence which Deering had communicated, he felt that a load which had long oppreſſed his heart was now removed, and he almoſt forgot his wound, his loſſes, his folly, and the villany of the Baronet. Concealment was at all times painful to his candid diſpoſition; it was particularly ſo to Darewell, towards whom he felt every ſentiment of gratitude, eſteem, and affection. To ſee him, to open his ſoul to him once again, without reſerve or reſtraint, to hear perhaps ſomething of Charlotte, were ideas ſo delightful that his whole frame ſeemed mended by the thought, and he

fell

fell into a peaceful ſlumber for ſome hours. His health, the next day, was ſo much improved that Deering no longer objected to Mr. Darewell's viſit.

It will be unneceſſary to deſcribe the interview. Suffice it to ſay, that Darewell forgot all the imprudence of his pupil, when he beheld his emaciated form; and that Latimer, reſtored to the good opinion of his beloved guardian, no longer repined at his pecuniary loſſes, or regretted the perfidy of the Baronet. After this intereſting meeting his health improved every day, and in a ſhort time he was well enough to leave his room. Change of air being recommended for Frederic, Mr. Darewell propoſed that he ſhould

of town on buſineſs, he poſtponed the interview till the next.

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fell

"Abroad!" cried the aſtoniſhed Frederic. "Oh where, in what "part of the world? I hope they "are ſafe; they are well?" "My laſt "letters," continued Darewell, "ac- "quainted me that they were ſo; "but I muſt entreat you not to "enter on this ſubject ever again. "I am particularly circumſtanced, "and am bound to anſwer no queſ- "tions relative to them. Pray "avoid this topic; at any rate it is "improper, Frederic. You have "certainly, long before this, forgot- "ten your boyiſh partiality to Char- "lotte; at leaſt I hope ſo; for if "ſuch a connection was improper "before, it is now totally impractica- "ble. I muſt, therefore, inſiſt on this "converſation being never renewed.

accompany him to Dawlish. Latimer's whole countenance was lighted up at the sound of that well-known name. Darewell easily entered into his thoughts, and thus went on: "Do not suppose that I should give "you this invitation, if it could subject you, in your present weak state, "to any scenes of agitation. The reasons which for the three last years "have deprived me of your company, no longer exist—my niece "and my sister are no longer at "Dawlish."

"Miss Murray is—per—perhaps "married?" asked Frederic with a faltering accent. "No, she is still "single," said Mr. Darewell, "but "circumstances have occured which "required their presence abroad."

"Abroad!"

at the thought of reviſiting the much-loved ſcenes of his early youth, and being now ſufficiently recovered to bear the fatigue of travelling, he entreated Mr. Darewell to fix an early day for their departure from London.

CHAP. XIV.

THE Ducheſs of Annan having condeſcended, during the illneſs of her ſon, to make many enquiries by her footman, and having once even ſtopped herſelf for five minutes at the door of his lodging, Darewell thought it right that his pupil and he ſhould call in perſon to expreſs their gratitude for this great and ſingular attention. He therefore wrote a few lines to her grace, acquainting her with the convaleſcence of Frederic, and of his intended journey to Devonſhire. He added, that Mr. Latimer and he wiſhed to

to pay her their reſpects before their departure, and entreated her to name any hour leaſt inconvenient to herſelf. As this note found the Ducheſs in very good humour, her aſſembly the preceding evening having proved particularly ſplendid, ſhe anſwered it in very civil terms, and invited Darewell and her ſon to dinner the next day. However highly ſhe might eſtimate this honour, it was one with which Frederic and his Guardian could well have diſpenſed, and in accepting the invitation they were ſolely guided by what they conceived an act of duty.

Though Mr. Darewell had heard a great deal of the lateneſs of hours in faſhionable life, he could ſcarcely believe that Frederic was ſerious in

acquainting

acquainting him that the time of dinner at Annan-Houſe was eight o'clock. When they arrived, however, he found that even then the family were not yet aſſembled. Latimer, leaning on the arm of his beloved guardian, was uſhered into a ſplendid apartment as yet unoccupied. The valet, as he led them into the room, ſaid he feared they would have long to wait, as her grace had only juſt begun her toilet, and the Duke was not yet come home from the club, adding, with all the conceit of his ſituation, "Though *our* dinner "hour is eight, *we* ſeldom find it "poſſible to ſit down before nine."

Darewell, who roſe with the ſun, and who had already paſt a long day, could not help reflecting on the

the great abſurdity of thus reverſing the order of nature. Frederic and he had ample time to make ſuch remarks, for they were left a conſiderable time alone. At length her grace made her appearance, and having received Darewell with politeneſs, and Frederic with much pretended affection, apologized to the former for keeping him waiting. "I know in "the country," ſhe ſaid with a ſmile, "you dine at ſuch very antediluvian "hours that I fear you will be ſtarv-"ed; but really it is yet very early. "I hurried myſelf down as ſoon as "poſſible, imagining you would be "here long before the time." Darewell, though he could ſcarcely command his countenance, anſwered this very condeſcending ſpeech with all the

the good-breeding he eminently poſſeſſed; and her grace ſoon diſcovered with aſtoniſhment that the country parſon was neither embarraſſed by her dignity, or confounded by her wit. He talked with eaſe and elegance on the general topics of the day, and proved that although he had retired from the world, and wanted the art, he had not loſt the poliſh of good company.

The reſt of the party aſſembled by degrees, and dinner was at laſt announced. Next the Ducheſs ſat Lord Cheltenham, a young man of the very higheſt ton, whoſe dreſs as well as converſation proved his humility, ſince both were evident imitations of his groom. On his right the Counteſs of Gameſhire, whoſe face

face was concealed from the vulgar eye of curiosity by a mask of white paint, enlivened by no moderate tinge of carmine. Near her was seated Mr. Dash, a gentleman of rare accomplishments and great ingenuity. No man was more fashionable, no man lived in better stile or greater expence, yet it never yet had been discovered in what part of the country, or in what funds, his property was situated. It was reported that he derived his principal support from a share of the Lady's bank whom we have just mentioned, and by selling horses at exorbitant prices to thoughtless young men; but who can believe that such characters find admittance in houses of respectability? Next him, Lady

Ann

Ann Routly (Lady Gameſhire's daughter) fair, ſlim, elegant, highly rouged, and dreſſed in all the tempting freedom of the preſent day. It fell to Frederic's good luck, ſo at leaſt he then thought it, to be placed near this lovely girl, who was herſelf not angry in having for her neighbour the handſomeſt young man in the room, a novice yet in faſhionable life, highly connected, and particularly intereſting from the paleneſs which his late wound ſtill gave to his complexion.

On the other ſide of her grace was ſeated a Scotch gentleman of political celebrity; and on his right the Ducheſs of Pairham, a fat and laughing dowager; between whom and her daughter Lady Betty, a handſome

handſome girl of ſeventeen, ſat the Earl of Colcheſter, a young nobleman, who had juſt ſucceeded to his title, and a very large eſtate, formal, awkward, and apparently more intereſted with the dinner than the company. Next to Lady Betty, on the other ſide, Sir George Ardent, a brave old admiral, who owed his admiſſion to this party of faſhion to a glorious victory which he had lately gained, and which rendered him at this moment quite the vogue. Darewell was fortunate enough to be the neighbour of the gallant veteran, who was not inſenſible of the merits of his companion. The Marquis of Dunkeld, an effeminate boy of nine years old, the only child of the Duke and Ducheſs of Annan,

and his tutor, a French Abbé, with all the ſycophant manners imputed to his country, compleated that ſide of the table. The bottom was of courſe filled by his Grace, whoſe original figure, little and deformed, was not improved by age. Such was the party! The converſation, excepting the common topics of the weather, the opera, and the park, was for ſome time far from general. The Ducheſs was highly delighted with the wit of Lord Cheltenham; becauſe it was the faſhion to admire him, though he ſcarcely talked of any thing but himſelf, his horſes, and his amours. Lady Gameſhire, in relating the laſt night's adventures of her Pharo table to Mr. Daſh, was fully occupied; and Frederic, though ſhy

and

and diffident at firſt, received ſo much encouragement, that he eaſily found converſation for Lady Ann. The Ducheſs of Pairham, as ſhe had two objects in view, could not attend to the reſt of the company. At one moment ſhe addreſſed herſelf to the Scottiſh gentleman we before mentioned, from whom ſhe was ſoliciting a place for a needy relation; and the next laboured to engage Lord Colcheſter, whoſe underſtanding was not very lively, in a *tête-à-tête*, with her daughter. Sir George Ardent ſoon diſcovered the ſuperior mind of Darewell, and was too much delighted with his remarks to liſten to any one elſe. The poor Abbé, though much inclined to talk, had none left to converſe with but

his Grace, and to do this was a liberty he was not allowed by the order of the houſe, but when particularly addreſſed. As for the Duke, he was for ſome time fully taken up in carving an haunch of veniſon, of which he was too fond to truſt the management to any one elſe. Being at length relieved from this office, and having his ſpirits a little enlivened by the burgundy which had been carried round, he ventured to introduce political ſubjects. Knowing the favourite topic of the Miniſter preſent, he contrived to draw him into a long harangue on the merits of a public meaſure then propoſed by government. As his Grace was at that moment requeſting a ſituation, which greatly depended

on

on the intereſt of this gentleman, he took care to applaud his obſervations, and a ſignificant nod crowned every remark. His high employment was known to the company, and all had experienced or wiſhed to be convinced of the influence he poſſeſſed, no perſon therefore for ſome time diſputed his aſſertions. Having at laſt hazarded a datum, which to Darewell's free and enlightened mind appeared at leaſt very doubtful, he entered into the converſation, and, to the great ſurpriſe of the whole party, declared that he differed entirely from the right honourable gentleman. The Miniſter, little uſed to contradiction even in parliament, aſſumed an haughty air, and endeavoured to confound Darewell by

high-ſounding words and lofty declamation. He ſoon perceived that he had a very different perſon to deal with from what he expected, and, conſtantly called by Darewell to the main ſubject, found great difficulty in keeping his ground againſt the ſolid ſenſe and ſound reaſoning of his antagoniſt. The Duke, terrified at the riſing anger of the Miniſter, having in vain attempted by winks and frowns to ſilence Darewell, at length ſaid, "I am ſorry, "Sir, to interrupt, but you ſurely "forget that you are ſpeaking to "a man of great political know-"ledge, and unequalled expe-"rience." Darewell, undiſmayed, calmly anſwered, "It was very far "from my intention to diſpute "either

"either the knowledge or the ex-
"perience of the gentleman; on the
"contrary, it was from the reſpect
"I entertain for that knowledge
"and experience, that I preſſed for
"an anſwer which would ſatisfy and
"remove every doubt on the ſub-
"ject. I cannot ſuppoſe that the
"gentleman feels any difficulty, in
"defending a meaſure which has
"been ſo particularly the ſubject of
"his ſtudy; if he did, I am ſure
"he would think himſelf obliged
"by my remarks, ſince they have
"procured to his cauſe the weighty
"ſupport of your Grace's elo-
"quence." As the Duke of An-
nan had often expoſed himſelf in
attempting to ſpeak in public, heſi-
tated, and almoſt ſtuttered, Mr.

"I beg pardon," cried Lord Cheltenham, interrupting him, "I know, "from undoubted authority, that the "quarrel arose about a French emi- "grant Countess, kept by Sir Wil- "liam."—"I really pretend not to "be positive," continued Dash; "but be the cause what it may, I "believe one fact is certain, the boy "died this morning, and the Baronet "has decamped."—"Are you quite "certain," said Mr. Darewell, who had kept the astonished Frederic from speaking by a significant look, "that the young gentleman is "dead."

"Positive," said Dash, "no fact "more certain."—"Excuse me," continued Darewell, "but I think I "have reason to believe, that though

" ſo very little in town, ſo conſtantly
" at Newmarket, (a-propos, I ſup-
" poſe you have heard that my
" horſe Clarinet won the laſt match;
" five to three againſt him the firſt
" heat, ſix to one for him the ſe-
" cond, took in all the knowing
" ones); I ſay I have been ſo ſhort
" a time in London, that I really
" know nothing of the *beau monde*.
" The only thing I have heard of
" ſince my arrival, is the duel be-
" tween Sir William Steel, and a
" raw boy from Oxford, whom no-
" body knows. The cauſe is dif-
" ferently reported, ſome ſay that
" he loſt money to the Baronet, and
" refuſed to pay; others, that he was
" caught in an intrigue with his mo-
" ther."

" I beg

" the room. Mr. Latimer, will
" you be ſo good as to convince
" Mr. Daſh, and Lord Cheltenham,
" that you are not a corpſe, and to
" thank them for the kind reaſons
" they have diſcovered for your un-
" fortunate *rencontre*." This unexpected intelligence threw the whole company into confuſion. Mr. Daſh, much agitated, in heſitating accents, made innumerable apologies to Frederic, declaring "he was really quite
" aſhamed, he did not know what to
" ſay, he had not the honour of know-
" ing Mr. Latimer, and how could he
" conceive that, having heard of the
" Baronet's antagoniſt as an unknown
" young man, it could poſſibly be a
" gentleman of his appearance—a
" gentleman of his diſtinguiſhed fa-
" mily?

" mily? No man entertained a higher " reſpect than he did for the Earl of " Creſſey; he had often hunted with " his fox hounds in Yorkſhire, and " ſhould be very ſorry to be ſuſpected " of meaning any reflection on a re- " lation of his." He was continuing his apologies, and Lord Cheltenham commencing his, when Frederic relieved them both from their embarraſſment, by ſaying with a ſmile, " I " beg, gentlemen, you will not trou- " ble yourſelves in making any fur- " ther excuſes. You have flattered " me too much in making me the " ſubject of your converſation; but " as the company muſt be heartily " tired with ſo barren a topic, I " muſt deſire it may be dropped. " I think it, however, juſtice to

" others

" others to aſſure you, that my meet-
" ing with Sir William was neither
" occaſioned by an intrigue with his
" mother, or his miſtreſs."

Mr. Daſh was now very vehement in his cenſures of the Baronet, and Lord Cheltenham entertained the ladies with a long liſt of the frauds he had practiſed at Newmarket. Frederic again interfered, and requeſted, out of kindneſs to him, that, as Sir William was once his friend, they would ſuſpend their obſervations on his character.

There was a generoſity in this, which the gentlemen in queſtion did not underſtand; but the error into which they had already fallen, and the ſpirit diſplayed by Latimer in the late affair, made them very obe-

dient

dient to the hint, and after freſh apologies the general converſation again dropped, and the whole party relapſed into the *têtes-à-têtes* we before mentioned.

The ladies ſoon left the room. The Duke then placed himſelf next the political gentleman, and entered into a long diſcuſſion. Mr. Daſh, and Lord Cheltenham, ſtrove to recover the good opinion of Latimer, by treating him with all the *chit chat* of the faſhionable world. The Abbé, conſtrained to ſilence, moved his chair near his patron, and endeavoured to recommend himſelf both to him and the Miniſter, by patiently attending to their converſation, ſhrugging up his ſhoulders, and exclaiming, at proper intervals,

" quelle

"quelle ſageſſé! quelle verité! quel "talent!" Lord Colcheſter entertained himſelf in cutting up a melon for his own eating; and the young Marquis was equally amuſed in devouring, with ravenous appetite, ſome raſberry cream, to which his fond mother had taken care to help him before her departure. Whilſt the reſt of the company were thus occupied, Mr. Darewell was highly delighted with the Admiral, who was no leſs pleaſed with the good ſenſe, ſpirit, and genius of his companion. The ſtrange miſtake made by Mr. Daſh, naturally drew the attention of the former to Latimer; and as he was much ſtruck with his manly conduct, and intereſted by his name, he took the firſt opportu-

nity

nity of enquiring his hiſtory. "Pray, "Sir," ſaid he, in a whiſper to Mr. Darewell, "let me now aſk, who "this fine young fellow is, whom "theſe puppies wiſhed to ſcanda- "lize. I think I heard him called, "LATIMER." Is he any relation to "my old friend the gallant Captain "Latimer, who died, like a hero, "fighting for his country?"

"You ſee before you," ſaid Darewell, while the affectionate mention of that much-loved name drew tears into his eyes, "the only "ſon of that beſt of men."

"Zounds," cried the Admiral, "is it poſſible?" and flying round the table, ſeized the hand of the aſtoniſhed Frederic, who was liſten- ing with pretended attention to an

account which Daſh was relating, with great glee, of a boxing match which had lately taken place, in which one of the combatants was killed, and the other loſt an eye.—"Sir," cried the veteran with the natural frankneſs of his character, "excuſe my freedom. I am a plain "ſeaman. I have juſt heard you "are the ſon of Charles Latimer, my "old meſsmate, the fineſt fellow "that ever commanded Britiſh veſ-"ſel. Though I ſee you for the "firſt time, I muſt conſider you as "an old friend. I am not a man "of many words; but look ye, if I "can ſerve you, ſay ſo, and you will "not find me backwards." Frederic was no leſs pleaſed than ſurpriſed at this agreeable interruption; and

and returning his addreſs with equal warmth, aſſured him, that the friend of his father muſt ever be dear to his heart.

The candor of both was very favourable to an immediate intimacy, and they ſoon entertained a friendſhip for each other, which in colder characters it would have required whole years to cement. Whilſt they were talking, tea was announced, and the gentlemen joined the ladies in the drawing room. Sir George Ardent took Frederic aſide, and continued the converſation. He enquired into his circumſtances, and aſked, with anxiety, whether he was in the navy? Being anſwered in the negative—"At any rate," ſaid he, "the ſon "of Latimer muſt ſerve his coun-

" try; what ſay you to the army?" Frederic mentioned that he had been intended and educated for the bar; but that his own inclinations were favourable to what the admiral recommended. He added, that to Mr. Darewell, who had been more than a father to him, he left the deciſion of this, and every other queſtion relating to his welfare. Sir George immediately addreſſed his guardian on the ſubject, and entreated his compliance. " You know theſe things," added the gallant veteran, with all the honeſt bluntneſs of his profeſſion, " I dare " ſay better than me; but I happen " juſt now to be in what they call " favour with the great people about " his Majeſty—God bleſs him—and " I think

"I think I could get Latimer a ſnug "birth in ſome brave regiment, where "he may ſhew his courage in a better "way than caning puppies and fight- "ing duels with ſharpers." Mr. Darewell felt all the kindneſs of this propoſition, and recollecting the diminiſhed income of Frederic, in conſequence of his loſſes, did not think it prudent to decline the offer, though far from partial to a military life. The old admiral was delighted with his compliance, and promiſed the next day to apply in perſon to the commander in chief. He heard with regret of the intended departure of Darewell and Latimer from London, which was fixed for the next day, but agreed, from the appearance of the latter, that it was abſolutely

neceſſary for the re-eſtabliſhment of his health. Frederic and his guardian ſoon took their leave, after receiving many profeſſions of affection and anxiety from the Ducheſs of Annan. Before they left the room, Lady Gameſhire did not forget to tell Latimer that ſhe was at *home every Sunday*, and depended on ſeeing him at her houſe as ſoon as he returned from the country; and her daughter, by a ſmile, enforced the invitation. As for the Ducheſs of Pairham, ſhe was too much occupied with the propoſed ſcheme of creating an attachment between her daughter and Lord Colcheſter, to attend to any one elſe. The Duke of Annan condeſcended to ſhake Frederic by the hand at parting; and the

the Abbé made him a long harangue on the benefit he hoped he ſhould derive from the pure air of *le Montpelier d'Angleterre*.

CHAP. XV.

THE next morning Frederic and Mr. Darewell commenced their journey. Every village, every inn, and almoſt every ſtep of the road, was intereſting to the former. He remembered the feelings with which he uſed to behold thoſe ſcenes, which in the ſummer holidays reminded him of his approach to home. Recollection enhanced them, and they were ſcarcely leſs welcome at preſent. One dear object was, however, wanting to the picture he drew of happineſs in Devonſhire; and that object was of ſuch importance, that

that its abſence would have deſtroyed every pleaſure, if he had not reflected, that though he ſhould not ſee, he ſhould hear of Charlotte; that he ſhould viſit the ſpot which ſhe had ſo long adorned, ſhould ſleep under the ſame roof which had for ſo many years ſheltered her, and ſhould tread in the ſame paths which her footſteps had ſo often traced. Theſe ideas, ſo trifling to the reſt of the world, ſo ridiculous to the unimpaſſioned, and ſo valuable to thoſe who love, ſupported him on the journey; and though they made him impatient to arrive, they gave him ſpirits to endure the journey.

When they arrived at Dawliſh, Frederic viewed the ſcenes of his early youth

youth with the fondeſt admiration, and indulged a pleaſing melancholy in viſiting thoſe places which moſt recalled the abſence of Charlotte. Some days elapſed before he ventured to enter the garden. When at laſt he walked over the terrace on which he had bidden her adieu; when he looked towards the window of the room ſhe once occupied, when he fixed on the identical ſpot where ſhe ſtood, as he hazarded the declaration of his love, the whole appeared a dream of happy days never to return; and though this walk became his favourite purſuit, he never approached it without a ſigh, or left it without a tear.

He made every enquiry about Charlotte;

Charlotte; but, alas! no ſatisfactory intelligence could be obtained. All that the ſervants knew was, that a letter arrived from abroad, that it ſeemed to be a matter of great joy and aſtoniſhment in the family, and that ſhortly after its receipt, Mrs. and Miſs Murray left the country. The faithful Deborah, who was ſtill living, rejoiced at ſeeing Frederic, gave him theſe particulars; and did not fail to add, that though Mrs. Murray ſeemed greatly delighted, her dear young lady at firſt was apparently happy at the news, yet that the latter every now and then dropped a tear, and had not ſlept for three nights before her departure. The good old woman then told him,

" *how*

" *how Miſs Charlotte took on*" at his departure for Oxford, and " *often* " *talked to her of poor dear maſter* " *Frederic.*"

This laſt information was no trifling conſolation to Latimer; and though he was far from vain, he could not help flattering himſelf that Charlotte ſhared his grief; and to a lover, what ſenſation can be ſo delicious?

In this manner Frederic paſt a very tranquil month at Dawliſh, during which his health was perfectly reſtored, and invigorated by ſea-bathing, and the pure air of that delightful climate. Mr. Darewell now received a letter from Sir George Ardent, acquainting him that he had

had ſucceeded in his application, and that the commander in chief, in memory of the gallant conduct of his brave father, had given him a commiſſion in the Coldſtream regiment of foot guards. The admiral wrote by the ſame poſt to Frederic, congratulating him on his appointment, and requeſting his acceptance of an encloſed bank note for 500 *l.* He apologized for doing ſo; but added, that having perſuaded him to enter into the army, it was but juſt that he ſhould pay the expences of his military accoutrements.

Though Latimer's heart was proud, it felt honoured, not debaſed, by the generoſity of the admiral. The preſent came from the friend

of

of his father; it was a tribute to his memory, and as ſuch was doubly acceptable. The money was no trifling relief in his preſent circumſtances. Darewell had taken meaſures before he left London for ſetting aſide the uſurious engagements into which Frederic had entered, and for diſcharging, with legal intereſt, what he had actually received; but as yet Latimer had not ventured to mention his Oxford debts, and they preyed inceſſantly on his mind. The moment therefore, he received the 500*l.* he flew to Darewell, and after expreſſing his ſurpriſe and his gratitude at the munificence of the Admiral, he diſcloſed his embarraſſments at the univerſity, and de-

clared his reſolution of immediately forwarding the amount towards their liquidation. "Your debts are al-"ready paid," ſaid Mr. Darewell; "here are the receipts," pointing to a bundle which lay on the table. "Your friend, Mr. Denniſon, ſent "them to me by this morning's "mail. Having learned, from Ed-"ward Deering, of your pecuniary "difficulties, I determined at once "to eaſe your mind, and ordered the "payment of theſe ſums." Latimer felt the kind attention of his guardian; no words could expreſs his meaning, but the ſilent tear of gratitude ſpoke his thanks. When at length ſufficiently recovered to explain his ideas, he entreated Mr. Darewell

Darewell to take the bank notes he had received in part of payment, as, if he died before he was of age, the latter would poſſibly loſe the money. Darewell ſpurned the thought, and requeſted him not to mar the pleaſure he had experienced by ſaying any thing more on the ſubject. He then talked of his military appointment, and recommended his laying out the Admiral's preſent, in the manner he directed, by procuring himſelf the requiſites proper for his profeſſion. He alſo ventured, for the firſt time ſince Latimer's illneſs, to touch on the topics of prudence and œconomy; and though Frederic did not promiſe attention to his advice, as readily as he did three years

years before, he felt, from ſad experience, the great truth of his remarks. He caught the hand of his worthy guardian, and thanking him for the kind intereſt which he ſtill took in his fate—" Aſk me not," ſaid he, " to pledge myſelf to any thing; I " have already forfeited my word, I " know my own weakneſs, and can " only ſay, the remembrance of your " goodneſs will be my beſt ſhield " againſt the temptations of plea- " ſure. I may be imprudent, but " I hope I never ſhall be ungrate- " ful."

Darewell was too much affected by Latimer's candor to add a word. The ſubject dropped, and Frederic haſtened the preparations for his re-

turn to London, where he was ſoon expected to join his regiment. Going into the ſtable one day, he was much ſurpriſed at ſeeing his favourite horſe, whom, in the firſt moment of his diſtreſs, he had ſold. He thought he could not be miſtaken; he examined him all over, and was convinced he was the ſame. He called to the groom, and enquired to whom he belonged. "Lord! Sir," ſaid the man, "don't you know your "own horſe; he arrived by the "waggon this morning." Frederic flew to Mr. Darewell, and requeſted him to explain this myſtery. "The "ſtory," replied the latter, "is "very plain. As I thought you ſet "ſome little value on that animal,

"I re-

"I requeſted Mr. Deering to "repurchaſe him if poſſible; and "as I did not foreſee you would "be ſo ſoon called away, I begged he "might be ſent down to Dawliſh. "I am glad to hear he is arrived in "ſafety. What ſay you, ſhall we ride "to-day, and give you an opportu- "nity of trying whether he retains "his former qualities?"

Latimer, whoſe heart was over-powered by the kindneſs of his guardian, attempted to declare his gratitude; but Darewell would not hear him, and running to the ſtable haſtened the horſes.

In a few days Latimer bade adieu to his generous friend, and returned to London. On his road he ſtopped

at Oxford, received an honorary degree, and took a final leave of the Univerſity, after expreſſing all his obligations to the worthy Mr. Denniſon.

CHAP. XVI.

FREDERIC's firſt viſit was to his benefactor, Sir George Ardent, who welcomed him with the warmth and plainneſs of his character. Latimer ſpoke of the favours he had received, and the ſenſe he entertained of his goodneſs. "Look ye, young man," cried the admiral, "I do not think "you mean to offend me, and there-"fore I forgive it this time, but if "you ever ſay another word on that "ſubject, you and I ſhall quarrel. "A truce therefore to fine ſpeeches, "and tell me how is the worthy

" parſon, your good friend Dare-
" well ?"

Thus ſilenced by the amiable commands of the gallant, veteran, Frederic, though he was not allowed to give vent to his feelings, found his gratitude and his eſteem increaſe every moment. The admiral introduced him the next day to the commander in chief, and himſelf preſented him at St. James's. Lady Gameſhire was there, and was not a little ſurpriſed at ſeeing, in the uniform of the guards, the young Oxonian, whom ſhe had met at Annanhouſe. His elegant perſon, recovered from indiſpoſition, and improved by that dreſs, recommended him both to her notice and to that of her lovely daughter,

daughter, who congratulated him on the favourable change of his appearance, and begged him not to forget the invitation which he had received from her mother for Sundays. Frederic was delighted at renewing his acquaintance with this charming girl; and ſhe was not leſs flattered in keeping in converſation ſo handſome a young man, whoſe beautiful form, now firſt ſeen in the faſhionable world, drew the eyes of the whole circle.

Latimer raved of Lady Ann, and made his new acquaintance in the guards ſmile more than once at the rapture with which he ſpoke of an hackneyed beauty, who had been a common toaſt for at leaſt eight years.

Frederic looked forward with impatience to Sunday, and when at length it arrived, he heard with regret that nobody ever went to Lady Gameſhire's before eleven o'clock. The day appeared very long, and Kenſington Gardens being then in ſeaſon, Frederic ſtrolled there, after taking his ride in the park with a party of his brother officers. He was much ſtruck with that lively ſcene, where every charm of nature, and every elegance of refinement, ſeemed aſſembled. He viewed with no leſs delight than aſtoniſhment, the number of beautiful women who were collected in that delightful ſpot, the matchleſs verdure, and refreſhing air of which breathed all the fragrance

grance of ſpring; nor could he help ſmiling with contempt at the affected idleneſs of the young men of faſhion, whom he perceived lolling on their horſes, oppoſite the wall of the garden, and nodding to their female acquaintance, however diſtinguiſhed by perſonal advantages, or reſpectable from character, rank, or age, with the condeſcending familiarity of eaſtern ſultans. The day was uncommonly fine, and crowds of happy beings of every age, and every condition, were enjoying the pleaſures it afforded. Frederic's ſpirits were enlivened by the ſight, but in the lovely faces which ſurrounded him, he only ſought for Lady Ann, and for ſome time he was diſappointed.

pointed. Tired with waiting for her in vain, he was at laſt leaving the gardens, for it was nearly five o'clock, when he was agreeably ſurpriſed at ſeeing her arrive. Her mother, and a numerous train of *fine* men, who, for a few moments, condeſcended to leave their horſes, out of compliment to Lady Gameſhire, acknowledgedly the leader of the *ton*, accompanied her. Her attention was ſo much taken up with the latter that ſhe did not perceive Latimer, who was too diffident to go up to her. The beaux having by degrees dropped off, for it was too inſufferable a fatigue to continue the *plebeian* exerciſe of walking, he ventured at laſt to join her; and as

he

he looked remarkably well in his riding dreſs, ſhe received him with great good humour? How happened you not to be at the opera laſt night? aſked Lady Gameſhire. "I "was at the play," anſwered Frederic, "ſeeing a favourite comedy." "Good God! exclaimed the Coun- "teſs, How can you be *ſi ſauvage?* "Abſent from the Opera-houſe on "a Saturday night, and that for ſo "ſtupid an amuſement as the play, "only ſuited to the taſte of the "*canaille*; I am really quite aſhamed "of you. You are a young man, "juſt ſetting out in the world, Mr. "Latimer, and I muſt tell you, you "never can be any thing if you are "not conſtantly at the opera. It

"is

" is impoſſible to remember one's " innumerable viſiters, if they do " not remind us of their exiſtence, by " ſhewing themſelves at the only " public place worth attending. Per- " haps you have not a ſeat; will " you take one in my box? there " is one vacant at preſent, by great " good luck; to be ſure I promiſed it " to Lord Cheltenham, but as I " really feel intereſted in your wel- " fare, I will give it to you. The " ſubſcription is only thirty guineas."

Latimer, new in the world, was ſurpriſed at this propoſition, and ſcarcely underſtood what it meant; but as having a ſeat in Lady Game- ſhire's box, would, he concluded, give him frequent opportunities of meeting

meeting her daughter, he accepted the offer with many thanks. The Counteſs, extremely pleaſed at getting rid of this ticket, which ſeveral of her friends had declined, became uncommonly civil to Frederic, and Lady Ann entertained him with her lively wit, whilſt his eyes gazed delighted on her airy figure, thinly covered with a ſlight muſlin dreſs, only half concealing the beauties of nature. She wore no cloak, and her fine hair fell in careleſs ringlets on her back. Frederic was enraptured, and at that moment thought Lady Ann the moſt perfect creature in the world. His attentions were ſo very acceptable both to the mother and the daughter, that they

ſtayed

ſtayed to a very late hour. The gardens being at length nearly empty, Lady Gameſhire looked at her watch, and declaring it was ſix o'clock, ſaid ſhe muſt haſten away to dreſs for dinner. Frederic conducted the ladies to their carriage. As he aſſiſted the daughter, he could not help preſſing her hand with ſome degree of warmth, and he thought, but ſurely it was a miſtake, that ſhe returned the preſſure. As they drove away, Lady Gameſhire called after him, and again begged him not to forget her in the evening.

At eleven o'clock the impatient Frederic, whoſe imagination had been occupied the preceding hours in painting Lady Ann in all the moſt favourable

favourable colours, drove to Portman Square. The candles were only juſt lighting, and the ladies had not yet left the dinner parlour. Frederic was ſhewn into a ſplendid apartment, and was much ſurpriſed at obſerving, towards the end of the room, a long green table, on which were placed heaps of rouleaus, ſeveral packs of cards, a bowl filled with guineas, and long ſticks, with ſquare ends, the uſe of which he could not underſtand. Behind the table ſtood ſeveral men, whoſe appearance proved them not to be of the company.

Frederic enquired of one of the valets, who ſtared at the queſtion, the purpoſe for which theſe articles were collected, and found they were

preparations

"mages for knocking down an honeſt
"cit, who was rude enough to defend
"his wife from his inſults at the
"opera. Fame reports, that what
"ſhe receives from her wealthy ad-
"mirer is given to this his more in-
"tereſting rival, whilſt the latter in
"his turn is indifferent to the donor;
"and with her money keeps a daſh-
"ing *chere amie*." Frederic's curi-
oſity was now attracted by the en-
trance of a lady of dark complexion,
and expreſſive countenance, whom
he perceived, after ſlightly courteſy-
ing to ſeveral perſons of apparent re-
ſpectability, running up to Lady
Bloſſom, ſhaking her hand with cor-
dial warmth, and ſhewing her every
mark of intimacy and regard. "Pray,"

ſaid

ſaid he, "who can that be who diſ-
"plays ſo much eſteem and reſpect
"for ſuch a character as you have
"juſt deſcribed the lady to be to
"whom ſhe is ſpeaking?" "It is,"
replied Lady Ann, ſmiling at his
ignorance of the world "ſolely on
"account of that character, that
"ſhe pays her this attention. Rich,
"but not highly connected, Mrs.
"Dorſet's ambition is to be a wo-
"man of faſhion, and her idea of
"being one is to aſſociate with demi-
"reps of notoriety. Though herſelf
"of unimpeachable reputation, ſhe
"courts women of the moſt abandon-
"ed character, provided their amours
"have had a certain éclat, and
"though too cold to intrigue, and

"too prudent to marry again, for "she is the widow of an affluent "merchant, she admits no man "into the train of her admirers "who has not paid damages in a "crim. con. cause, won a race at "Newmarket, or lost a fortune at "Brooks's.

"Do you perceive," continued Lady Ann, "that tall, well looking, "middle aged man, with his hair in "a plait, now engaged in earnest "conversation with a fair lady dres-"sed in pink. He is a noble peer, "lately divorced from his second wife, "for whom he broke the heart of his "first. The person to whom he "is speaking is married to his most "intimate friend, now absent in the

"service

"ſervice of his country. By his "manner, I ſuſpect that he is over- "powering with his eloquence the "ſcruples of the lady.—See, ſhe "ſmiles, I am afraid his poor "friend is undone, and that we ſhall "ſoon hear of the noble lord in "Doctors Commons, in the cha- "racter of defendant inſtead of "plaintiff.

"That old gentleman, taking "ſnuff in evident confuſion, is the "huſband of the handſome dark "woman near the door, to whom "that inſinuating wretch, Daſh, is "talking nonſenſe; his jealouſy is "the ridicule of the whole room, "but as ſhe is only twenty, and "he ſeventy, to be ſure he has

" ſome reaſon for his apprehen-
" ſions.

" The young lady, who is juſt
" making her courteſy to Lady
" Gameſhire, is reported to have
" met with an awkward adventure
" laſt ſummer. A letter from a fa-
" vourite beau, a married man, mak-
" ing an appointment for the fol-
" lowing evening, was, by ſome un-
" fortunate miſtake, delivered to her
" father. A duel enſued, and for
" ſome months ſhe was the daily
" ſubject of converſation. The ſtory
" has now blown off, and *elle eſt*
" *partout*.

" But pray take notice of that vul-
" gar over-dreſſed woman ſitting near
" the door. She is the wife of a
" rich

" rich East Indian, who, finding her
" attachments rather general, made
" an agreement with her of a very
" extraordinary nature. He al-
" lowed her the conſtant attendance
" of one young man, whom he like-
" wiſe permits to live in his houſe
" without any reſtraint, on condition
" that her other beaux ſhould be
" diſmiſſed. How far ſhe has kept
" the latter part of the contract, I
" have not heard; but ſhe has
" taken care that the former ſhould
" be religiouſly fulfilled. Captain
" M'Forty, the happy man ſelected
" on the occaſion, has lived five
" years openly in the family, and is
" regularly aſked, and attends her
" every where as her ciciſbeo.

"That fine tall woman, covered "with diamonds, playing Caſſino "at the neareſt table, was the wi- "dow of a governor abroad, who "is ſaid, tired of her ill-humour, to "have ſhot himſelf. She then mar- "ried a naval officer. Twenty years "elapſed without children, when, "to the great aſtoniſhment of the "world, and the ſtill greater joy of "her gallant huſband, ſhe preſented "him with an heir about two "months ſince. Scandal inſinuates, "that a young perſonage of very "great diſtinction, a conſtant viſiter "in the family, could account for "this unexpected event better than "any one elſe; but be that as it "may, the facts are as I have ſtated "them."

"them." In this manner she ran on. Frederic, entertained by her lively descriptions, admired her spirit, and forgot the ill-humour which directed it. She was now called away to make up some parties at cards; and Latimer had an opportunity of observing the motley group which was assembled round the Pharo table. There he beheld figures of every description, with greedy impatience watching the variations of fortune. Wrinkled age and beardless youth, ugliness and beauty, thoughtless innocence and premeditating guilt! In one corner sat an old Dowager of seventy, dressed with the formal precision of the last century, whilst she gambled with

with all the ſpirit of the preſent. Near her a fair young lad ſcarcely eighteen, who, from the agitation of his countenance, appeared to have loſt a large ſum. Next to him a foreign Count, covered with ſtars and ribbons, who ſeemed perfectly to underſtand the game, and who, whilſt he pretended to give advice to the youth we have juſt mentioned, ſhewed evidently in his ſmiles that he was intereſted in his loſſes. On the other ſide of the court a maid of honour, "who, if once young, "was young, alas! no more!" highly rouged, and preſenting in every feature the ſad effects of late hours and conſtant diſſipation. Her neighbour was a daſhing general,

who punted highly and often won. Near him a lively young Ducheſs, who loſt, doubled her ſtakes, and played on with equal bad luck. Her whole face, naturally beautiful, was disfigured by the trembling agitation of her feelings.

Latimer recollected in her what he had himſelf ſo lately experienced, and ſincerely pitied her imprudence. The reſt of the table was filled up with heterogeneous beings of every deſcription.

Frederic was particularly ſurpriſed at the dull ſilence of the game; and, cured of the paſſion of play, viewed with aſtoniſhment the infatuation of its votaries, who, whilſt their voice poured forth no ſound of pleaſure, their

their features diſplayed no marks of happineſs, were ſeeking a phantom of amuſement at the price of their ruin. "Ace wins, king loſes," ſeemed to be the monotonous language of the table; and had he not known the purpoſe for which it was uſed, he ſhould have imagined it was rather the counter of buſineſs than the ſeat of amuſement. He was aſked to take a card; but the melancholy countenances which he beheld gave him little inclination to break the reſolution which he had formed, not to hazard ſums of any conſequence.

Latimer's attention was called from the Pharo table by the entrance of a young man, accompanied by a lady, in whom he immediately re-

collected

collected an old Weſtminſter ac-quaintance. Frederic was flying up to him with his uſual warmth, when the gentleman in queſtion turned his head and looked another way. Frederic, unable to account for this ſtrange behaviour, could not help exclaiming to a brother-officer near him, "Is it poſſible that I can be "miſtaken? Surely that is Charles "Grantham? yet he ſeems not to "remember me. I muſt be very "much changed."—"Not at all, "I dare ſay," replied the officer; "it is only *a cut*. He is famous for "giving himſelf airs, and ſcarcely "ever remembers any of his old "friends. He lately married a girl "of quality, who, having flirted with

"all

" all London till the mature age of
" thirty-five, without perſuading any
" one to make her a ſerious offer,
" was happy to put up with this
" raw boy, whoſe large fortune ren-
" dered him an object of temptation,
" and who, knowing nothing of the
" world, ſuppoſed himſelf highly ho-
" noured by the alliance. As her
" connections are good, and ſhe is
" in every reſpect a fine lady, ſhe
" has introduced him to all the *beau*
" *monde*. His head is turned, for
" you know he never was very wiſe,
" and is become as impertinent as
" ſhe is. I have no doubt, however,
" that he will ſoon ſee the folly of
" his conduct. She is of a very
" daſhing diſpoſition, has already led

" him

"him into every extravagance; and "appears to be fully ſenſible of the "merits of Daſh. He is conſtantly "at Grantham-Houſe, where he "amuſes himſelf in making love to "the wife, and ſelling horſes to the "huſband at a profit of at leaſt three "hundred per cent." Frederic laughed heartily at this account, and was let into the ſecret of "*cutting*," a faſhionable habit, which till now he had never experienced. He had the next morning an opportunity of taking his revenge. He was walking down St. James's Street with Sir George Ardent and the Duke of Annan; ſeeing him in ſuch company, the recollection of his old friend immediately returned; and he

ran

ran towards him with great familiarity. Frederic looked him full in the face, gave a ſmile of marked contempt, and turned upon his heel.

Latimer did not leave Lady Gameſhire's aſſembly till a late hour. Though he had not played, he was invited to ſupper, being in great favour, on account of having accepted the offered place in her box, the price of which he took care that evening to diſcharge. The ſupper was in every ſenſe, *a la Françoiſe*; French diſhes, French attendants, and French manners. Every body was, by happy management, ſeated exactly as he wiſhed. Next the lady of the houſe ſat Jack Meadows,

on

on his right Lady Squander, and between him and her noble lord Lady Bloſſom, who, whilſt ſhe kept the doting peer in good humour, by now and then darting on him a gracious ſmile, devoted her principal attention to his poorer but more faſhionable rival. As for the latter, he was *too fine* to be occupied with any thing but the ſupper and himſelf. The reſt of the table was filled in the ſame manner; but though huſbands and wives were kept at a proper diſtance, and every opportunity afforded for thoſe tender *têtes-à-têtes*, which ſeem to be the grand buſineſs, next to gaming, of faſhionable life, there was but little converſation. The men yawned, picked

their teeth, drank wine together, and made ſome bets for the ſpring-meeting at Newmarket; whilſt the women placed themſelves in becoming attitudes, laughed at every ſtupid remark which fell from their reſpective favourites, whiſpered trifles under their fans, ſtared ſome quiet perſon out of countenance, and quizzed every body not as notorious as themſelves.

Latimer's intimacy with Lady Ann increaſed every day; conſtantly with her, either at her mother's or the opera, he had every opportunity of paying her thoſe particular attentions which ſhe was very willing to receive, and in a ſhort time ſhe occupied his every thought. Some remorſe would

now and then embitter the pleaſure he experienced in her company, when he thought of Charlotte, of his promiſe, of the mediocrity of his fortune. But as to Miſs Murray, ſhe was gone abroad, probably never to return. Darewell had likewiſe declared that their union ſhould not take place, and how could he diſobey the injunctions of the kindeſt of guardians, the moſt affectionate of parents. So eaſily do the paſſions even of the beſt of men, find an excuſe in their virtues for the faults they are inclined to commit!

His poverty was indeed a ſerious obſtacle. How could he flatter himſelf that Lady Ann, in the height of faſhion and gaiety, would conde-

ſcend to accept his humble fortunes; yet he had a profeſſion, and ſome expectations. He would then calculate the poſſibility of living on his income, and on the intereſt of what ſhe was reputed to be entitled to; and he conceived that, if ſhe could be perſuaded to conſent, the thing would not be impracticable. Encouraged by this idea, he every day ſtrengthened the attachment he felt for her. His friends, and particularly Edward Deering, remonſtrated with him on the imprudence of ſuch a project. They reminded him of the diſſipated life of Lady Gamsſhire, and the levity of her daughter. Frederic, blind to her faults, found in his ardent imagination reaſons againſt

againſt every objection. She was to be pitied, not blamed for the conduct of her mother, and whilſt he execrated the example which the latter had diſplayed, he admired the natural goodneſs of the former, who had preſerved her character unſullied amidſt the temptations of vice which ſurrounded her, and the evident freedom of the houſe in which ſhe lived. As to what was called "the levity of her manner," he attributed it merely to extreme good humour, high ſpirits, and conſcious innocence. He indulged the faſcinating idea of reſtoring the virtues which he ſuppoſed her to poſſeſs, to their primitive vigor, when freed from the factitious charms of

faſhion, they ſhould exhibit their original purity, in the tranquil ſcenes of peaceful retirement, to which he propoſed to conduct her. By ſuch falſe reaſoning he obviated every difficulty; and armed by paſſion againſt the remonſtrances of Deering, and the wit of his brother officers, he became the profeſſed admirer of Lady Ann. At firſt ſhe pretended great ſurpriſe, and expreſſed ſome anger; then liſtened to his addreſſes, thanked him for his good opinion, but aſſured him that the propoſal he had made was totally inconſiſtent with their mutual happineſs. She took care, however, that he ſhould not deſpond; and whilſt ſhe checked him by her arguments,

guments, ſhe encouraged him by her ſmiles to perſevere. One moment ſhe would elevate him to the very pinnacle of expectation, by hearkening with an attentive ear to the romantic plan of happineſs which his enthuſiaſtic diſpoſition had traced out, and the next would render him a prey to all the horrors of jealouſy, in paying the moſt particular attention to ſome faſhionable young man. When ſhe acted thus an explanation always enſued, and explanations are generally favourable to lovers. After ſhe had thus ſufficiently played with his feelings, ſhe confeſſed that he was not indifferent to her; but that in his preſent circumſtances it was impoſſible to expect the con-

of levity brought againſt the object of his attachment, and he reſolved to uſe the influence he ſaw he poſſeſſed, in overruling the objections ſhe had ſtarted.

A private maſquerade was now announced, and it occurred to Frederic that it might afford a convenient opportunity for carrying this wiſhed-for object into execution. He propoſed to Lady Ann, that, ſheltered from obſervation by the crowd and confuſion of the ſcene, ſhe ſhould make her eſcape from Lady Gameſhire, and flying with him to a poſt-chaiſe, which he would take care to have in readineſs, ſhould immediately ſet out for Scotland. Lady Ann received this ſuggeſtion.

geſtion with evident confuſion, which he attributed to virgin modeſty, and the natural diffidence of her ſex. He would not believe her ſerious, when ſhe informed him that neither her mother or herſelf had tickets. "Surely," ſaid he, "this cannot be "a ſerious difficulty. In your nu- "merous acquaintance you will "eaſily find ſome perſon who will "procure you tickets from Mrs. "M'Cardy." "By no means," replied Lady Ann, "you do not "know the character of that extra- "ordinary woman. No condition "ſhort of viſiting her will obtain this "mighty favour, and that is a price "my mother will not pay for "one evening's amuſement. Mrs.

"M'Cardy

" McCardy is a being of a moſt ſingu-
" lar nature. Once handſome, long
" talked of, vulgar, avaricious, yet
" fond of popularity, ſhe was in early
" life married to a rich old huſband,
" whom ſhe has governed ever ſince
" with a rod of iron. She has for ſome
" years been getting regularly back-
" wards in ſociety; every ſeaſon
" taking ſome names of faſhion and
" reſpectability from her liſt, and
" adding an equal number of low
" origin, coarſe manners, and indiff-
" ferent reputation. Hurt at this
" unfortunate decline in her ac-
" quaintance, ſhe has attempted this
" ſeaſon to reſtore herſelf to ſome
" conſequence, by giving maſque-
" rades, and having declared that

" ſhe

"ſhe will only give tickets to thoſe "who have previouſly ſent their "cards, ſhe flatters herſelf that "ſhe will be immediately re-eſta-"bliſhed in the good opinion of the "faſhionable world. As yet ſhe "has been diſappointed. At her "laſt, very few people would pur-"chaſe admiſſion on the terms ſhe "propoſed; and the ſmall number "of the *haut ton* who were preſent, "came with the borrowed tickets "of her old acquaintance. Irritated "to the higheſt degree at this de-"ception, and fruſtrated in her great "and long projected ſcheme, Mrs. "M'Cardy could not contain her "indignation. She eaſily diſcovered "the perſons in queſtion, for her

"huſband,

"husband, dressed as a watchman, "by her order, took his stand at the "door, received the tickets, and "acted as inquisitor general in exa- "mining them; and after abusing "them with an eloquent scurrility, "peculiarly her own, actually turned "them out of doors. My mother "was amongst those thus *hospitably* "dismissed. You will believe there- "fore, that no argument will per- "suade her to make the attempt a "second time." Frederic was much disappointed, and impatient to have his happiness no longer kept in suspense, urged her to elope with him from the opera on the following Saturday. She did not actually con- sent to this proposition, but the faint

manner

manner in which she urged her former objections, convinced the happy Frederic that he might depend on her concurrence.

CHAP. XVII.

IT was now Wedneſday; Mrs. Mᶜ Cardy's maſquerade was to take place on Friday, and the next day was the fortunate moment deſtined for the completion of all his wiſhes. This interval, ſhort as it was, appeared an age to the enraptured Latimer, who, to divert his anxious thoughts, was perſuaded, when the evening arrived, to be preſent at Mrs. Mᶜ Cardy's, a ticket having been offered him by a brother officer.

Frederic had never ſeen a maſquerade,

querade, and though his mind was fully occupied with the lovely Lady Ann, and elevated by the thoughts of his approaching happineſs, he expected to receive ſome entertainment from the wit and raillery of the characters who compoſed it. On entering the room, he was much ſtruck with the diverſity of groteſque figures which ſurrounded him, but he ſoon found that though they had aſſumed the dreſs of every nation, and every profeſſion in the world, yet in their language, their manner, and their knowledge, they had not laid aſide their original habits. Each perſon, perhaps to prevent detection, ſeemed to have adopted the part leaſt calculated for his perſon or his

talents. He was firſt attacked by a French *petit maître*, accoutred in all the finery of former times; but though he mangled Engliſh with tolerable ſkill, he could not ſpeak a ſingle word of the country whoſe manners he pretended to ridicule. After Frederic, who ſpoke French with great fluency, had ſufficiently teized the unfortunate *marquis*, he turned round and perceived an Oxonian at his ſide. Recalled by the dreſs to the recollection of the various ſcenes he had paſt at the Univerſity, Latimer expected to receive ſome pleaſure in hearing of his old acquaintance, but he found, to his great ſurpriſe, that the young gentleman did not even know the name

of

of the College to which he belonged. He then talked to him of the moſt diſtinguiſhed characters at Oxford; to which he ſoon perceived he was an equal ſtranger. Convinced that he knew nothing of the Univerſity, he concluded that he was a man of letters, and had aſſumed the gown he wore, in order to diſplay his learning. Frederic, who was an excellent claſſic, addreſſed him in Latin, but the only anſwer he could get, was, "Come, give us none of your *parlez-*"*vous*; I am no Frenchman, what "have I to do with ſuch gibberiſh?" Latimer laughed at his miſtake, and in plain Engliſh aſked his opinion of ſeveral modern authors. "What "the devil do you plague me about

" theſe *old foguies*—if you will talk
" to me of books, why don't you
" ſpeak of Taplin's Farriery, or
" the Racing Calendar, the only
" uſeful ones I ever heard of?"—" I
" ſuppoſe then," ſaid Frederic " theſe
" were your only ſtudies at Oxford."
" Studies—Oxford—what do you
" mean, Sir," ſaid he, angrily, " I
" never ſtudied in my life; and as to
" Oxford, I never ſaw it but once,
" and that was laſt year, when my
" Mare Flirt won the cup. Are we
" not at a maſquerade? I only put
" on this *damned dreſs* becauſe Do-
" minos were not admitted, and
" this was more like one than any
" thing elſe." So ſaying he hid himſelf in the crowd, and took care

never to approach Frederic the reſt of the night. Latimer's attention was next called to a female figure of extreme elegance, dreſſed with claſſical propriety in the *coſtume* of Diana. He concluded that ſhe not only poſſeſſed the bow, the arrow, and the creſcent of the goddeſs, but likewiſe her virtues. He was a little aſtoniſhed at finding her ſurrounded by a numerous train of young men, whoſe very particular attentions did not ſeem at all to offend the delicacy of her divinity. His ſurpriſe increaſed, when he learnt that Diana was no other than Lady Bloſſom, the handſome widow, of whoſe gallantries Lady Ann had given him ſo ridiculous an account. Near her he

perceived a Jew, whoſe outward appearance reminded him of his friend Iſraeli. He immediately addreſſed him, and finding that he meant to repreſent Shylock, Frederic quoted ſeveral paſſages from that celebrated part, none of which he remembered. Irritated at his ſtupidity, he could not help aſking in the words of Garrick, "Is this the Jew, that Shake-"ſpear drew?"—"No, to be ſure," replied the man, "every blockhead "knows that Sheridan wrote Shy-"lock, what the devil have I to do "with Shakeſpear? you thought to "take me in—no, truſt me I am "better prepared, ſo keep your wit "for weaker heads, little Iſaac is "not to be deceived." Thus ſay-

ing

ing he walked off in triumph, ſuppoſing he had brilliantly ſupported his part, whilſt Frederic contented himſelf with calling him, "cunning "little Iſaac" the reſt of the evening. He was next highly entertained by perceiving, in the dreſs of Venus, covered with loves and cupids, the dowager Lady Steel, mother to the Baronet, whoſe groteſque and unwieldy figure we have before deſcribed. With her the French Counteſs, who, whilſt in the character of a nun ſhe abjured the world, appeared to have miſtaken a ſmart young officer, on whoſe arm ſhe leant, for her father-confeſſor. The Duke of Annan, though deformed and debilitated, wore the jacket of

a running footman, whilſt the Duchess, of whoſe vanity we have ſpoken more than once, aſſumed the humble garb of a Quaker. Daſh was an hermit; Lord Cheltenham a philoſopher; the Abbé a monk of *la Trappe*; and Lord Colcheſter a Diogenes. The political gentleman, whom Latimer met at Annan-Houſe, and who was high in power, was for this night a patriot, wore the dreſs of Brutus, brandiſhed his dagger, talked of liberty, execrated tyrants, and declared "he'd think his coun-"try's good bought cheaply with "his blood." A known oppoſitionist, with equal inconſiſtency, aſſumed the part of Nero, and was perfectly at home, in ordering the heads

heads of his subjects to be cut off. The lady of the house, of whose temper Latimer had received so unfavourable an account, was pointed out to him in the character of "Hope," leaning with resignation on an anchor. He would not believe at first that "Hope" and Mrs. M'Cardy could be one and the same person, but he was soon convinced that the intelligence was correct. Some person attempting to be admitted with the ticket of another, the fair Lady forgot the mildness of her part, and, with all the volubility of her natural disposition, dismissed the fair and terrified intruder. Frederic, though he was not entertained as he expected with

the

the wit, was indemnified by the abſurdity of the different characters. This afforded a conſtant ſource of amuſement; but had he known how many real deceptions were practiſing at that moment, he would perhaps have directed his enquiries to ſomething more than a mere examination of the talents of thoſe whom he addreſſed. More than one young girl had that night taken the opportunity of eſcaping the notice of her mother, and had dared, under the friendly ſhelter of a maſk, "the "virgin's wiſh, without a bluſh "t' impart." Many a wife had contrived, by changing her dreſs, to leave the room unperceived, even by the jealous eye of her huſband;

and

and after giving a tender *rendezvouz* to ſome favourite youth, returned in ſafety to this ſcene of gaiety, her reputation untarniſhed, and her virtue unſuſpected. Frederic, not yet initiated in the ſecret of maſquerades, had contented himſelf with laughing at the follies, without diſcovering the vices, of thoſe around him. Tired with talking to the ſeveral maſks, he attempted to puſh his way through an immenſe crowd which filled the ſtairs, and to reach a room on the ſecond floor, where the refreſhments were purpoſely placed by the œconomical Mrs. M'Cardy, that few might be able to approach them. After great labour he at length attained the wiſhed-for haven,

and

and having procured, not without much entreaty, from the attendant houſekeeper, who was directed to be as ſparing as poſſible of the bounty of her miſtreſs, a glaſs of wretched negus, made of bad port wine, cream of tartar, and brown ſugar, was returning to the ball-room, when he perceived himſelf followed by a perſon in the character of a wizard. "Young man," ſaid the latter, as he reached the bottom of the ſtairs, "attend to me! Thy guiltleſs heart "knows little of the iniquities which "ſurround thee. Learn from me, "that thou art the deſtined victim "of a nefarious plot. Thy fate "reaches its criſis. I have ſtudied "the planets, and know the events

"of

" of life. Thy ruin or thy happi-
" neſs depends on this hour. Wilt
" thou be ſaved, liſten to me, my
" counſels ſhall protect thee." Having thus attracted the curioſity, and commanded the attention of Frederic, he ceaſed to uſe the language of prophecy, and drawing Latimer aſide, ſaid, " I know you; and have come
" here purpoſely to unfold a plan of
" villany which has been laid to
" undo you. I will not aſk you to be-
" lieve my aſſertions, truſt your own
" eyes, they ſhall prove to you the
" fraud which is practiſed on your
" unſuſpecting nature. Do you per-
" ceive that female in the dreſs of
" a Pilgrim, attended by a Friar.
" They are in deep conference, and

" think

" and think themſelves unobſerved.
" Hearken one moment to their
" converſation, you are the ſubject
" of it; this door will prevent your
" being ſeen." The aſtoniſhed Frederic heſitated, his curioſity was excited to the higheſt degree, yet he thought it diſhonourable to liſten clandeſtinely to the private diſcourſes of theſe perſons, whoever they might be, and was going away, when his attention was irreſiſtibly rivetted by the following words, in a voice he thought he could not miſtake, "Take
" Latimer at his word." He could no longer reſiſt the impulſe of curioſity, and heard as follows: " Your
" character will at leaſt be ſaved;
" and though you ſhould happen

" to

" to bring the poor fool an heir ap-
" parent rather ſooner than he may
" expect, he will find it his intereſt,
" when you once are his wife, to
" conceal your foibles. He will
" ſoon be of age; and though not rich,
" has a few thouſands, which you
" will of courſe take care properly
" to employ, in fitting up an ele-
" gant houſe—a Pharo table will
" do the reſt—but remember the bar-
" gain—a thouſand pounds down
" for me, one month after he at-
" tains his majority, and a ſhare in
" the bank. In marrying Latimer,
" you will alſo have a good chance
" of conſiderable riches: his mother
" may relent; and his uncle, Lord
" Creſſey, has but one ſon."

Irritated

Irritated to the utmoſt point at hearing his name thus trifled with, Frederic was running with indignation towards the Baronet, whoſe voice he recognized, when the wizard ſtopped him by force, and reminded him, that as yet he had aſcertained but one of the two perſons recommended to his notice. Latimer with difficulty checked his impatience, liſtened again, and in a female tone, evidently diſguiſed, heard as follows—"Yet I will con-
"feſs to you my weakneſs; I feel
"ſome remorſe at impoſing on his
"warm and generous heart; nothing
"but my unfortunate ſituation, and
"your determined reſolution not to
"marry me, could induce me to

"take

"take ſuch a ſtep. Self-preſerva-
"tion muſt be my excuſe. He
"preſſed me to elope with him this
"evening, but I could not perſuade
"myſelf to break my appointment
"with you. I pretended I had not
"a ticket, and he was *freſh* enough
"to believe me. I did hope that
"at laſt you would keep your word;
"—poor as you are, I would rather
"ſtill be your wife, than his by de-
"ception." "Nonſenſe, curſed non-
"ſenſe," exclaimed Sir William, "to
"marry me, would be to ruin both.
"No; we will have every liberty of
"that ſtate without its reſtraints;
"'Love free as air, &c.' you remem-
"ber the quotation,—but come, we
"loſe time; my ſervant is near in a

" lawyer's dreſs; change characters
" with him, and away to my lodg-
" ings. A chair is waiting; we will
" paſs one hour more together before
" you aſſume " the matron's ſacred
" name." The diſtracted Frederic was now fatally convinced that the pilgrim was Lady Ann, as well as the friar, Sir William; and would once more have vented his angef againſt the Baronet in ſomething more than words, if the wizard had not again interfered, and entreated him to be firſt ſatisfied that he was not miſtaken in the perſon of the lady. This caution created a faint hope. The voice reſembled Lady Ann's, yet it was a diſtinct one. Perhaps ſtill it might not be ſhe.

He

He would be juſt—he would have further proof before he condemned him. With great exertion checking the violence of his feelings, he followed, attended by the wizard, the ſuſpected pair. The lawyer was ready, and taking off his barriſter's gown, put it on the pilgrim, whoſe dreſs he aſſumed. A chair was called. The friar handed his companion into it, and took another. Frederic and the wizard were careful not to loſe ſight of either. The chairs at laſt ſtopped at Sir William's lodgings. They both entered—the door was ſhut. Latimer could no longer reſtrain himſelf. He rapped violently at the door, and apologizing to his unknown friend, ſaid, "I will

"bring this at once to a conclu-
"ſion, I cannot wait any longer, I
"will go up, but I do not aſk you
"to accompany me." The wi-
zard readily promiſed to attend
him.

No anſwer was given; Frederic knocked again with violence; at length a ſervant appeared with a light, and aſked who was wanted at that late hour. Latimer and his companion gave no anſwer, but ruſhing by the man, ran up to the drawing room—the door was locked. Frederic eaſily forced the bolt; and perceived on a ſopha, ſtill attempting to conceal her face, the terrified figure of the pilgrim. In the diſorder of the moment, the maſk,

which

which ſhe held with a trembling hand, fell from her graſp, and diſcovered the well-known features of Lady Ann. The Baronet, at firſt, ſeeing two perſons enter his apartments, cried out with aſſumed ſpirit, "What do you mean, you ſcoun-"drels? how dare you break into my "lodgings?—John, call the watch." Frederic took off his maſk. This was ſufficient for Sir William. He became immediately calm; and in faultering accents apologized for the expreſſions he had inadvertently made uſe of, and aſked what had procured him the honour of a viſit from Mr. Latimer. "Simply," ſaid Latimer, "to be ſatisfied that Lady "Ann Routley was here. I could

" not believe ſhe was the miſtreſs of " ſuch a villain, and therefore wiſhed " to have ocular demonſtration. " You have now afforded me that " proof, and I do not deſire any " longer to interrupt your mutual " enjoyment. If you pleaſe, Sir, " we ſhall now retire? Sir William " knows where to find me, if he " thinks himſelf injured by this in- " truſion. As for you, Lady Ann, " I ſhall ſay nothing; your own " feelings muſt be a ſufficient pu- " niſhment." So ſaying, he took the wizard by the arm, and left the room.

CHAP. XVIII.

As Frederic returned from the lodgings of the Baronet, he recollected all the obligations he owed to the man who had reſcued him from impending deſtruction. If this friendly maſk had not diſcovered to him the plot which had been laid to enſnare him, in four-and-twenty hours more he would have been on his road to Gretna Green with this abandoned woman. He expreſſed theſe ſentiments as well as the agitation of the moment would allow, and requeſted to make the acquaint-

ance of his unknown benefactor. "You ſhall ſoon be fully ſatisfied "who I am," ſaid the wizard, "but "we are now in the ſtreets, and it "is already day-light." The workmen were paſſing to their morning labour, and a crowd began to collect, when a coach going by which had juſt ſet down a gentleman returned from the maſquerade, Frederic and his friend jumped into it, and drove to the lodgings of the former. The latter then took off his maſk, and aſſuming his natural tone of voice, which hitherto he had admirably concealed, "My dear Fre-"deric," ſaid he, "ſee in the wi-"zard your old friend Deering." "Mighty God!" cried Latimer, "is

"it poſſible! I did not know you; "but how ſhall I thank you, how "expreſs my contrition at having "neglected your advice? With a "generoſity of which you alone are "capable, you have reſcued from "perdition one who laughed at your "ſcruples, and acted in direct oppo- "ſition to your counſels." "A "truce to compliments," ſaid Deering; "I have only diſcharged the "duty I owed you. I was your "friend. You were blinded by paſ- "ſion; I ſaw with the cold eye of "reaſon. Could I do leſs than la- "bour to prevent the evil into which "this temporary inſanity, for ſuch "I conſidered it, was about to lead "you? In one word, I formed an

"acquaintance

"acquaintance with Lady Ann's
"maid; and partly with money, partly
"with thoſe little attentions which
"pleaſe every order of women, I ob-
"tained her confidence, and diſco-
"vered that ſhe knew every ſecret
"of her miſtreſs's heart. Having
"concealed from her my intimacy
"with you, I eaſily learnt the whole
"ſtory of the Baronet, of the pro-
"poſed rendezvous, and of the in-
"tended elopement the next day
"with you to Scotland. I found
"that Sir William had long been
"a favourite with Lady Ann; and
"that in his proſperity he had more
"than once promiſed to marry her,
"though he prudently poſtponed
"the celebration of their nuptials.

"I learnt

"I learnt from her, alſo, that when "your duel compelled him to keep "out of the faſhionable world till "the affair blew over, he went into "the country, but conſtantly corre-"ſponded with her by the aſſiſtance "of this convenient Abigail. He "recommended to her, both from "revenge, and the hope of getting "rid of ſo troubleſome an at-"tachment, that ſhe ſhould make "your acquaintance, and endeavour "to gain your affections. It was to "this you owed her early favour. "And Lady Gameſhire was perſuaded "by her daughter, that you were "a man of very large fortune; whilſt "your name proved the diſtinction "of your birth. The Baronet re-

"turned

" turned about a week ſince; and
" finding Lady Ann was pregnant,
" in conſequence of her former meet-
" ings with him, he preſſed her to
" ſave her reputation by conſenting
" to your offer of an immediate
" union. You know the reſt. When
" I learnt that Sir William was to
" meet her at the maſquerade, and
" was afterwards to attend her to his
" lodgings, I procured an exact
" deſcription of their dreſs; and de-
" termined to follow you, in order
" to make you an ocular witneſs
" of the deceits which were practiſed
" on your credulity, convinced as I
" was that no other teſtimony would
" ſatisfy you. I have happily ſuc-
" ceeded, and am amply rewarded

" for

"for my humble exertions, by the "pleasure I feel at having saved you "from ruin."

Frederic would again have expressed his thanks, but Deering would not hear him. He soon took his leave; and Latimer had now time for reflection.

When he examined his whole conduct relative to Lady Ann; when he remembered the kind admonitions of Deering, which he had disregarded; when he thought of the constant jests of his brother-officers on the same subject, which he had despised; when he looked back on the general behaviour of Lady Ann and her mother, which of themselves ought to have guarded him against

this

this fatal prepoſſeſſion, he was aſto-
niſhed at his own blindneſs; and
whilſt he felt the moſt lively grati-
tude to the friend who had reſcued
him from impending deſtruction, he
trembled as he contemplated the
evil which he had ſo narrowly eſcap-
ed. Freed from the deluſive argu-
ments which paſſion had ſuggeſted,
he now ſaw the extent of his crime,
as well as of his folly. He recollected
the ſacred promiſe he had given to
Charlotte, and the plauſible reaſons
he had found to juſtify the breach
of it. They had no longer any force;
and he accuſed himſelf of the blackeſt
perfidy. He then drew a contraſt
between Charlotte, whom he had
abandoned, and Lady Ann, for
whom

whom he had deſerted her. The innocent ſimplicity, the mild virtues, the unaſſuming grace, the natural modeſty of the former, forcibly ſtruck his imagination. She had every requiſite for domeſtic happineſs. How different a choice was he on the point of making! Reared in the lap of indolence and diſſipation, Lady Ann's whole charms conſiſted in a volatility of manner, which he had miſtaken for the marks of an ingenuous mind; and an indecent freedom of ſpeech, careleſs of the reputation of others, which he had excuſed and admired as the reſtleſs effuſion of ſuperior wit. When he traced back the arts ſhe had practiſed, the virtues ſhe had aſ-

ſumed,

ſumed, the crimes ſhe had committed, and thoſe which ſhe meditated, he was aſtoniſhed at the depravity of ſo young a mind. Yet at times, he was inclined to pity her unfortunate errors. He remembered the dangerous education ſhe had received, the guilty ſcenes which had been conſtantly exhibited to her view, and the crafty villainy of the Baronet, to which ſhe had fallen a prey, and which he himſelf had ſo fatally experienced, injured, as he had nearly been, in the tendereſt point, by her conduct, when he conſidered theſe circumſtances, he was ready to allow, that "ſhe was "ſtill more ſinned againſt than ſin-"ning;" and though he was radically

cally cured of his fatal attachment, he forgave her from the bottom of his heart.

Diſguſted with faſhionable life, anxious to enjoy the beloved ſociety of his guardian, and to ſeek ſome relief from the agitation of his preſent feelings, in the tranquil ſcenes of his early youth, he aſked leave of abſence for a month, and agreeably ſurpriſed Mr. Darewell with an unexpected viſit. Frederic, incapable of deceit, unboſomed his whole ſoul to that affectionate friend. The latter heard with trembling anxiety the recital of his attachment to Lady Anna, and ſhuddered at the danger he had eſcaped, whilſt he joined with him in hearty admiration of

the kindneſs, generoſity, and affection of Deering.

The well-known ſcenes of Dawliſh, recalled the injured Charlotte every moment to his recollection, and ſeemed now to offer a ſilent reproach to the perfidy of his conduct. He could no longer aſpire to the happineſs of uniting his fate to hers, his guilty violation of a ſacred promiſe, rendered him unworthy of her hand, nor would he ever dare to aſk it; yet he wiſhed once more to ſee her, to have an opportunity of confeſſing his guilt, and of receiving the only comfort which his mind could now experience, her pardon. He became more anxious than ever to diſcover the

the place of her retreat, and he determined, however diſtant the country, to find her out, to declare his crime, and to ſeek in return not her love, for he preſumed not to expect it, but her forgiveneſs. He made every enquiry, but with no better ſucceſs than formerly. All the ſervants could inform him was, that Mr. Darewell received letters from abroad, which they underſtood came from his ſiſter; but as they were forwarded in the encloſure of a London banker, they could not tell by the poſt mark from what part of the world they came.

Deſpairing of procuring intelligence any where elſe, Frederic at laſt ventured once again to mention Mrs.

Murray's name to his guardian. "I "will not deny you, ſaid Mr. Dare- "well, the ſatisfaction of knowing "(for I am convinced you will con- "ſider the intelligence as ſuch) that "both my ſiſter and my niece are "well. I received a diſpatch from "them only three weeks ſince; but "remember your promiſe—do not "aſk me another queſtion." So ſaying he put on a reſolute look, and left the room.

Frederic found it in vain to preſs an enquiry which his guardian was determined not to ſatisfy; and he gave vent to his feelings in letters, which he amuſed himſelf in writing to his Charlotte, though he knew not that he ſhould ever find the means of conveying them to her.

Whilſt

Whilſt he thus paſt a month in tranquil retirement, only embittered by the recollection of his fatal imprudence, and the violation of a ſolemn engagement, with which he continually upbraided himſelf; he was ſurpriſed in reading in a London newſpaper the following paragraph:

"A lively young girl of high fa-
"ſhion, celebrated beauty, elevated
"rank, and great notoriety, has de-
"camped from her mother's houſe
"with a daſhing Baronet, not of
"the beſt character, well known on
"the turf. The happy pair did *not*
"take the road to Scotland. The
"gentleman is ſuppoſed to be a de-
"clared enemy to matrimony; and
"the lady, who is in a very promiſing

" way, conſents to be his miſtreſs.
" She is living openly at his lodg-
" ings, not an hundred miles from
" Bond Street. How her noble
" relations will bear this diſgrace,
" remains to be proved."

Latimer, though cured of his attachment to Lady Ann, did not read this account with indifference; he ſincerely lamented the diſgraceful ſtate to which her own imprudence, the education ſhe had received, and the arts of Sir William, had reduced the unfortunate girl. He was anxious to learn whether ſhe had actually left the protection of her mother. Letters from Deering ſoon confirmed the fact. From them it appeared that all hopes of marrying Frederic, having

having vaniſhed with the maſquerade, and her ſituation growing every day more evident, ſhe took the reſolution of becoming the declared *chere amie* of the Baronet, who would not confer on her the character of his wife. They added, that Sir William had lately won a conſiderable ſum at Newmarket, with which they were at preſent living away with conſiderable *eclat*.

Frederic forgave and pitied her. Whilſt he trembled at the precipice from which he had eſcaped, he felt his gratitude increaſe to the amiable friend who had been his preſerver againſt himſelf, and he determined, henceforward, to be guided by his advice in every event of ſerious importance.

The time limited for his abſence ſoon elapſed, and his profeſſional duties called him unwillingly back to London. He was now of age. Mr. Darewell accompanied him to town, and transferred to him his little fortune. This, his worthy Guardian had huſbanded with ſo much care, that notwithſtanding Frederic's loſſes and extravagances at the Univerſity, the ſavings of his minority paid off theſe incumbrances; and the £. 10,000. left him by his father ſtill remained untouched. Mr. Darewell did not deliver up to him this proviſion without many and ſerious admonitions, which it will be needleſs to repeat.

Frederic had now, with the intereſt

on

on the above ſum, and his pay, an handſome and independant income. Taught by paſt misfortunes, he determined to be rich; but this was a reſolution he never could keep. His generoſity always made him poor; but though he at no time had much money at command, he ceaſed to be in debt.

CHAP. XIX.

FREED from pecuniary diſtreſſes, and by degrees recovering from the painful ſhock he had experienced from the conduct of Lady Ann, Latimer began to reſume his natural gaiety. Happineſs ſeemed once again within his reach, but he was of a character not to enjoy the ſmiles of proſperity, unleſs they beamed generally around him. His felicity was ſoon interrupted, by perceiving, on the countenance of his friend, his preſerver Deering, the too evident marks of deep care, of inward grief.

grief. Frederic preſſed him to diſcloſe the reaſon of his ſorrow, and claimed the privilege of ſharing his affliction. Deering was not inſenſible to his kindneſs, yet he long perſiſted in obſtinate ſilence. At length, moved by the repeated and anxious enquiries of Frederic, his heart found vent in an involuntary exclamation—"My father! my ve-"nerable father! I could have borne "any grief but this!"—"Heavens," cried Latimer, "what has happened "to that beſt of men, that moſt "affectionate of parents? Oh, Deer-"ing, you who reſcued me from the "worſt of evils, deny me not the "melancholy ſatisfaction of partak-"ing your filial care." "I wiſhed," ſaid Deering, with a ſolemn tone, attempting

attempting to calm the violence of his feelings, "to have ſpared your "generous breaſt the ſad recital, but "ſilence preys upon my heart, I can "no longer refuſe the relief you "offer, in liſtening to my ſorrows. "Know then, my whole family are "ruined! My reſpectable mother, "whoſe life has been one act of bene-"neficence; my ſiſter, whoſe early "virtues promiſe every perfection; "and my infant brothers, whoſe "tender years call for the protection, "of a parent, all, all are undone! "my beloved father, the moſt juſt, "the moſt honeſt man alive, has "been torn from the arms of his "children, and dragged into a com-"mon gaol." "Gracious God,"

ſaid Frederic, as a tear of pity dropped from his eye, "what ſad "reverſe of fortune has expoſed Mr. "Deering to ſuch a calamity? Be- "fore I aſk, I am ſatisfied that no "fault of his has occaſioned his diſ- "treſs."—"You do him but juſ- "tice," continued Deering, "he is "the victim of deliberate villany. "The fatal ſtory is ſimply this. "You have heard me ſay, that my "father's eſtate was ſituated in the "Weſt Indies. Unfortunately for "him, his property lay in one of "thoſe iſlands where the Charibs "were in full force. His plantations "were deſtroyed by their ravages; "but his ſlaves, who had ever expe- "rienced from him the kindneſs of

"a parent,

" a parent, preſerved their fidelity.
" They flew to the mountains, and
" when the ſavage enemy was in
" ſome degree ſubdued, returned
" to the eſtate. The works had
" been entirely demoliſhed, their
" ſervices could be of no utility till
" theſe were repaired; for this mo-
" ney was wanting. My poor father,
" though he had been ſtrictly correct
" in all his pecuniary tranſactions,
" had not been able to make any
" ſavings from his annual receipts.
" He had educated a large family,
" had been liberal to all his chil-
" dren, and particularly ſo to me,
" how then was it poſſible that his
" income, never large, ſhould admit
" of any accumulation?

" Thus

"Thus circumſtanced, he applied
"to an only brother, an affluent
"merchant in the city. A loan of
"eight thouſand pounds was what
"he required. This crafty relation,
"who knew the ſlaves alone to be
"an ample ſecurity for a much
"larger amount, would not make
"the advance but on condition of
"the whole eſtate being mortgaged,
"and of receiving a perſonal bond
"as a further ſatisfaction. To theſe
"hard terms my father conſented,
"as the only means of reſtoring
"independance to his family. Alas!
"he was little aware of the artful
"ſcheme which was laid to enſnare
"him. Though my unfeeling uncle
"knew that the property muſt for

"ſome

" ſome time be neceſſarily unpro-
" ductive, when the yearly intereſt
" became due on the money lent,
" he demanded the payment. My
" father in vain reminded him of
" the impoſſibility of complying with
" this requeſt, and of the implied
" promiſe which accompanied the
" loan, that no part of it ſhould be
" demanded till remittances were
" made from the eſtate. Not ſatis-
" fied with aſking the intereſt, he
" ſoon talked of having occaſion for
" the principal; ſaid he had been
" blamed by his partners for advanc-
" ing ſo large a ſum on Weſt Indian
" ſecurities, and feared he ſhould
" be compelled to proceed on the
" bond, unleſs ſome ſatisfactory ar-
" rangement

" rangement was ſpeedily made. " He then hinted that the only " plan he could ſuggeſt was, that " the equity of redemption of the " eſtate ſhould be given up to him, " on which condition he would take " the reſponſibility of the debt on " himſelf, pay his brother an annuity " of three hundred pounds for his " life, and ſecure him from the dan- " ger of impriſonment." " My poor " father ſaw at laſt the deeply-plan- " ned artifice which had been prac- " ticed to undo him. He ſuppoſed " the bond had been only intended " as an additional ſecurity. He now " found that it had been purpoſely " demanded, in order to extort his " conſent to the relinquiſhment of

" his eſtate. He had but one alter-
" native. To ſubmit to impriſon-
" ment himſelf, or to ruin his family
" by this depreciated ſale of his pro-
" perty. His virtuous heart did
" not heſitate. He ſpoke to his
" unnatural brother in the terms his
" conduct deſerved, and aſſured him,
" that, prepared againſt every evil,
" he would undergo whatever his
" malice could dictate; but that no
" human conſideration ſhould in-
" duce him to deprive his children
" of their inheritance. Diſappointed
" in his object, and irritated at the
" unconquered ſpirit of his brother,
" the merchant forgot every tie of
" kindred, and arreſted the ſon of
" his father! Even in captivity his
" fortitude

" fortitude does not forſake him;
" and though my mother, my ſiſter,
" and myſelf, have on our knees en-
" treated him to purchaſe his liberty
" on the hard terms propoſed by his
" unnatural brother, no argument
" can ſhake his reſolution; and we
" have the agonizing horror to ſee
" him deprived of his liberty, and to
" feel that it is for us he endures this
" diſgrace. Excuſe, my dear Fre-
" deric, this long, this perhaps unin-
" tereſting account." " Uninte-
" reſting!" cried Frederic, " you
" know little of my heart, if you
" think I hear, with indifference, the
" generous, the ſacred ſorrows of my
" friend; but, I entreat you, be com-
" forted. Things may change; your
" uncle may relent."

"Oh, no; his callous nature is "incapable of any feeling but in-"tereſt."

"Mr. Deering may be perſuaded "to conſent to the terms impoſed."

"That alſo is impoſſible. My "father's magnanimity is not to be "moved."

"Some perſon may be found to "lend the money."

"Oh! no! The precarious ſtate "of the Weſt Indies, and particu-"larly of St. Vincent's, renders ſuch "a hope totally groundleſs."

Frederic found it in vain to argue this point with Deering, but he was determined that his friend ſhould not long endure the agonies of his preſent feelings. He recollected that

that he was maſter of ten thouſand pounds. Eight would reſtore a father to his family, Deering to happineſs, an anxious wife and helpleſs children to the protection of a fond huſband, an affectionate parent. Deering had ſaved him from the greateſt of all misfortunes. Gratitude called on him to render him an equal ſervice. It was a debt, not a favour. Prudence in vain ſuggeſted that he ſhould deprive himſelf of the comforts of affluence. His friend's tranquillity, and the welfare of a whole family, were at ſtake; the money would ſome day or other be returned to him, and if not, on his pay, and the remaining two thouſand pounds, he might ſtill exiſt.

In ſhort, his generous heart could not attend to the cold dictates of reaſon. He concealed his intention from Edward, and under the pretence of a particular engagement took his leave. He went to the bank, ſold ſtock to the value of eight thouſand pounds, and immediately waited on the merchant. "I am come," ſaid Frederic, as he entered his counting-houſe, "to ſettle an account "with you."

"I beg your pardon," ſaid Mr. John Deering, "I have not the ho-"nour of recollecting you; may I "aſk the favour of your name?"

"No matter what my name is," continued Latimer, "it is not on "my own account I pay you this

"viſit. I come from your brother,
"now a priſoner in the King's Bench,
"at your ſuit."

The clerks ſtared; the merchant was evidently confuſed, but ſoon recovering himſelf, and aſſuming an haughty air, "Sir," ſaid he, "if "you have any thing to propoſe re-"lating to that unfortunate man, "whom I have in vain attempted to "reſcue from ruin, I will liſten to "you in the other room; will you "be good enough to wait half an "hour? I am at preſent much en-"gaged."

"I ſhall not detain you five mi-"nutes," anſwered Frederic; "nor "is there any occaſion for ſecrecy. "Mr. Deering mortgaged, I under-

" ſtand, his eſtate to you for eight
" thouſand pounds; and as he re-
" fuſed to give up the fee ſimple,
" you have kindly arreſted him on
" his bond, which you knew he had
" not the means of paying. I come
" to diſcharge that bond and mort-
" gage—Here is the money; ſend for
" your attorney, let an immediate
" releaſe be made on the back of
" the deed."

The merchant viewed him with aſtoniſhment, and would willingly have found excuſes for delay. He counted the money—The bank notes were right—It was impoſſible for him to refuſe.

The attorney came, a ſhort releaſe, dictated by Frederic, was endorſed on

on the deed of mortgage, and the bond given up. The mortified merchant was ſtill more ſurpriſed, when, on being aſked to whom the eſtate was to be aſſigned, Latimer directed a ſimple reconveyance to Mr. Deering. He knew his brother poſſeſſed no funds capable of raiſing the money; and he ſuppoſed of courſe that this ſtranger had lent the ſum, with the intention of having the mortgage transferred to him. He was now perfectly at a loſs to account for this ſingular tranſaction, and requeſted Latimer to explain by what means his brother was ſo happily relieved from his difficulties.

"After your conduct, Mr. Deering," ſaid Frederic, "you are entitled

" titled to no explanation—Your " debt is paid. Have you any other " demands? If ſo ſtate them." " No, " Sir, certainly I do not mean," ſaid the agitated John Deering (who was not without alarm for his perſonal ſafety, at the tone and voice of Frederic) " I do not mean to trouble " you with any impertinent queſ- " tions, only when a near relation is " concerned one feels ſo intereſted."

" Intereſted! yes," cried Latimer, " you have hit on the right word. " You were intereſted in his ruin; " that ruin is now prevented; and " it ſignifies little by what means " your object is diſappointed." So ſaying, he put on his hat, took the deeds of releaſe, and with a look of ſovereign

ſovereign contempt left the counting houſe.

He then drove to the King's Bench priſon. He approached that ſeat of miſery with very different feelings from the generality of its viſitors. He neither came to immure an unfortunate priſoner, or himſelf to be ſhut up within its relentleſs walls. His object was to diſcharge the nobleſt duty of humanity, to enjoy the greateſt of all human pleaſures, "the luxury of "doing good."

It was only the recollection of the object which brought him there, which could have ſupported his ſpirits as he approached the door of a building, where he knew ſo many of

of his fellow creatures were deprived of liberty. When he enquired for Mr. Deering, he was directed to No. 4, in 5. This jargon was new to Frederic, and it was not till after ſome explanation that he underſtood what it meant. By the direction of the gaoler he paſt through the yard, thronged with beings of every deſcription, to a ſtair caſe, at the top of which he was told he ſhould find the apartment of Mr. Deering. Occupied, as he was, with the thought of relieving the venerable man, he could not help ſtopping one moment to contemplate the extraordinary characters which ſurrounded him. He was ſurpriſed at ſeeing much apparent mirth in this ſeat of captivity.

vity. Men and boys playing rackets, parties talking politics, and ſome formed of the two ſexes, appearing to be occupied with a tenderer ſubject. In the heterogeneous mixture of Jews and Chriſtians, Engliſh and Foreigners, gentlemen of apparent rank, and perſons of the loweſt ſtamp, old and young, ugly and handſome, gay and melancholy; there ſeemed to be but one general circumſtance which pervaded the whole, a careleſs inattention to dreſs, accompanied by an equal want of cleanlineſs. From this ſtrange ſcene he haſtened up the ſtairs, which had been pointed out to him, and having aſcended four pair, was at laſt directed to a door, at which he knocked.

It

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It

" occaſioned it. Having heard from " your ſon of your temporary em- " barraſſment, I have taken the " liberty of paying off the mortgage, " and the bond debt, for which you " are confined. I have now to re- " queſt, that you will allow me to " be your creditor for the amount. " You are no longer a priſoner; and " I hope this evening to have the " happineſs of ſeeing you reſtored to " the arms of your family." He then took out of his pocket the releaſe and cancelled deeds, and delivered them to the father of his friend. Mr. Deering was no leſs aſtoniſhed than affected by the generoſity of Latimer. Tears of joy and gratitude flowed down his venerable

rable cheek; and his voice, interrupted by his feelings, could only utter, "admirable young man! how "ſhall I thank you?"

"I am amply paid in the pleaſure "I now enjoy," ſaid Frederic, "and "muſt inſiſt on your dropping the "ſubject. Come, pack up your "clothes; let us leave this melancholy "place; I have a coach at the door."

Mr. Deering could ſcarcely credit that he was free; and it was not till Frederic had again aſſured him of the truth, that he was fully ſatisfied that what was now paſſing was a reality, not a fiction. He had made up his mind to endure a long, perhaps a perpetual captivity, and his ſudden delivery appeared a chimera

of the brain. Whilſt Deering was preparing himſelf for the great and happy change, Latimer went into the lobby, produced his diſcharge, and paid the fees.

As he led Mr. Deering out of this diſmal abode, Frederic felt proud for the firſt time; and that moment ſeemed the happieſt of his life. Fearing to alarm his family by a too ſudden diſcovery, he undertook himſelf to prepare them for the joyful intelligence. He went to his houſe, and aſking for Edward, eaſily gained admittance. Mrs. Deering, whoſe grief rendered her incapable of enduring ſociety, was leaving the room, as Frederic entered, but ſeeing who it was, ſhe returned.

"You,

"You, Mr. Latimer," ſhe ſaid, "I "am always glad to ſee. You will "excuſe the depreſſion of my ſpirits; "you know the cauſe." The tears guſhed from her eyes, and would not allow her to proceed. Her intereſting daughter, juſt eighteen, who was occupied in preparing ſome little comforts for her unfortunate father, left her work, and ſtifling her own ſorrow, deſired her mother to be comforted. Her youngeſt boy, who was playing about the room, threw down his toys, kiſſed her hand, and told her, "papa would "ſoon come back."

"That he will, I warrant you," ſaid Frederic, with an emphatic manner.

"What do you mean?" cried the anxious wife—"I know, Mr. La-
"timer, you are too good to trifle
"with our feelings, pray explain
"yourſelf."

"I mean," continued Frederic,
"that I bring you good news. I
"have great hopes that Mr. Deering
"will ſoon be reſtored to liberty,
"and that I ſhall have the pleaſure
"of ſeeing you all happy once again
"under this hoſpitable roof."

The whole little party now crowded round Frederic; and wiping their tears, deſired a more particular account. "It ſignifies little," ſaid he,
"how I know it; but I will promiſe
"you that he ſhall ſpeedily return
"home, freed from his embarraſſ-
"ments.

"ments. You will believe that I "would not ſay ſo without being "certain of the fact; but unleſs you "compoſe yourſelves I will not add "another word." They again promiſed to be calm, and again burſt into tears. Mrs. Deering's impatience was now wrought to the higheſt pitch, and ſhe inſiſted on his explaining himſelf more fully. "Shortly "then," ſaid Latimer, "Mr. Deer-"ing is at liberty, and you may "expect to ſee him within this "hour."

Though Frederic had tried by every means in his power to prepare them for this intelligence; the joy was too great to be endured; and Mrs. Deering fell ſenſeleſs in the

arms of her daughter, who was ſcarcely leſs agitated. By the attention of Latimer, and her ſon, ſhe at laſt recovered; but it was long before ſhe could be convinced of the reality of what ſhe heard. The eſtimable woman then fell on her knees, and bleſſed Frederic for the information he had communicated; though ſhe was far from gueſſing that it was to him ſhe owed the freedom of her huſband. They all wiſhed to fly to Mr. Deering, but Latimer would not allow it. He left it to Edward, to compoſe the violence of their emotions; and returning to his lodgings, conducted back the father of his friend. Frederic ſaw him to the door; and after entreating

entreating him to command his feelings, took his leave, refuſing to be preſent at their meeting.

Frederic returned home with very different ſenſations from what he had ever experienced. He had not before had an opportunity of conferring happineſs. He had indeed often relieved temporary diſtreſs; but this was the firſt time that he had ſeen a whole family reſtored to tranquillity by his means; and the recollection of what he had done gave him a gratification, of which thoſe only who are capable of ſuch actions can form any idea. He was indeed impoveriſhed, but his poverty, when he remembered the cauſe, afforded him more real delight

than all the luxuries which wealth could purchaſe. The next day Edward Deering called to expreſs the extent of his gratitude. Latimer would not allow him to proceed. "Believe me," ſaid he, "I was ſolely "guided by a motive of intereſt. "I have received more pleaſure in "reſtoring your worthy father to "his family, than twenty times the "ſum could have produced me." "Come then," replied the grateful Edward, "come and read our thanks "in the ſmiles of thoſe whom you "have reſcued from deſtruction." "Willingly," ſaid Frederic, "will I "be a witneſs of your happineſs; "but on one condition, that the "words, 'Thanks and Gratitude,'

"form

" form no part of the converſation." Edward promiſed, if poſſible, that none of the little circle ſhould offend his delicacy, by mentioning a ſubject uppermoſt in their thoughts; " but " recollect," added he, " though I " engage for words, I cannot for " the involuntary tributes of the " ſoul; a tear may drop, a look may " ſpeak what we all feel, what we " may in vain attempt to diſguiſe."

Frederic dined with the happy family, and when he looked round and ſaw a whole circle reſtored to the full enjoyment of domeſtic felicity, and felt that the work was his, he experienced a ſatisfaction which amply repaid him for the ſacrifices his generoſity obliged him to make.

Mr.

Mr. Deering called him aſide, and talked of the ſecurities he wiſhed to aſſign for the payment of the money; but Frederic would not liſten to his propoſals, and aſſured him he was perfectly ſatisfied with his word. Mrs. and Miſs Deering, with difficulty kept the promiſe which Edward had made for them; but though in expreſſions they obeyed the injunctions they had received, their eyes inceſſantly diſcloſed the feelings of their heart. The children crowded round Frederic, and called him, "their papa's dear friend, "dear, good, Mr. Latimer." A grey-headed black, as he ſtood behind his chair, betrayed the honeſt emotions of his ſimple nature, and the other

ſervants

ſervants were officiouſly attentive. Every thing ſeemed to ſpeak his praiſe, and Frederic was himſelf not unmoved by the kindneſs they all endeavoured to conceal.

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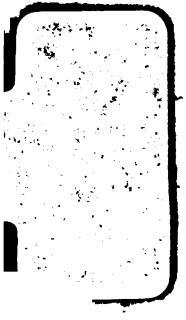
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